THE EPISTLE to the Reader.

GEntlemen, I haue publiſhed this Hiſtorie, at the intreatie of ſome of my familiar friends, being at the firſt collected with no intent to haue it printed, for as yet hauing taken but one flight, I durſt not too boldly venture againe, leſt my vnskilfulneſſe might cauſe my repentance. But being ſupported by the aſsiſtance of your gentle fauours, I ſhall grow hardie, and hereafter labour to procure your further delight: the reward I expect, being your kinde acceptance. But if contrary to my thought, this my ſūmer frute be gathered before it be ripe, I promiſe amends with old frute, that hath bene a yeare in ripening, and in the beginning of the next winter comming forth. In the meane time, peruſe this Hiſtorie, which ſauoureth more of pleaſure then Eloquence: and although haſtily compiled, yet let it paſſe vnder your fauourable cenſure: and by your curteſies, be ſhrowded from the variable diſlikes of Monus *vaine imitators*. The learned, wiſe, and curtuous, wl according to the quallitie of their diſpoſitions, eſteem wel of this vnworthie woorke, valuing the ſame, not by the worth but the wil of the writer. As for ſuch as either raſhly condemne without iudgement, or lauiſhly diſlike without aduice, eſteeme them like the downe of Thiſtles, inconſtantly diſpearſt with euery blaſt, accounting their diſcontent, my content: not caring to pleaſe thoſe that are pleaſed with nothing. But did my gains, counteruaile my labours, I would then frame my fancie to fit their humours, but getting nothing, I can looſe

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no lesse, onely to haue a good opinion of the well affected to learning, is all I craue: and that I hope your good minds will afford.

As at a Banquet there are seuerall kindes of meates, some pleasant, other sharpe, yet all tasted. Amongst Grapes, some sowre, some sweete, yet all esteemed, so with indifferencie, amongst varietie of eloquent Histories, let this serue as one dish to furnish out a Banquet, and like sowre and sweete intermingled, make a pleasaunt taste, by your courteous construing of my good meaning, and your fauourable opinion of Ornatus loue. So shall I account my debt to you great, my labours well bestowed, and my selfe bound to requite your kindnesse. You shall shewe your affection to learning, vertue in fauouring good indeuours, and giue incouragement to more worthie labours. I rest well contented, my reward rich, and hereafter both readie and willing to deserue your curtesie. But if Ornatus loue breede my blame, as it bred his banishment, then may I wish I had neuer knowne thereof, and crie out of Mala fortuna, as my reward. With the bird Celos bred in Affrica, who wandring far from her nest, by forgetfulnesse cannot return: and so for euer after abandoneth company. So I too boldly building on your curtesie, may be wounded with repentance: and by my ouersight bee brought in dispaire, vnlesse your curtesie preuent the same: on which my hopes depend. And so I cease.

E. Fort.

THE MOST PLEASant Hiſtorie of Ornatus and Arteſia.

Chap. I.

How *Ornatus* was enamoured of the faire *Arteſia*.

IN the rich and renowmed country of Phrygia, in Prouinces not farre diſtant from neere neighbourhood, dwelt two auncient Knights, the one named Allinus, the other Arbaſtus, men of great poſſeſſions, & much honoured. Betwixt whom, ſuch extreame contention and hatred remained, by reaſon of the death of one Renō brother to Allinus, long ſince ſlaine in a quarrell by certaine gentlemen belonging to Arbaſtus, that neither their owne wiſdome, nor the ſundry perſwaſions of friends to eyther partie allied, were of any force to mittigate the ſame. Both of them being inriched with innumerable bleſſings, eſpecially in their faire progenie.

Allinus hauing a ſonne of goodly ſtature, and commendable gifts, named Ornatus. And Arbaſtus a daughter called Arteſia, of exceeding comelineſſe, exteriorlie beautified with abundance of gifts of nature, and inwardlie adorned with aboūdance of diuine perfections. Yet by reaſon of their parents diſcord, they remay-

ned as far ignorant in knowledge one of the other, as if they had bin ſeparated by an innumerable diſtance of ſtrange countries.

Ornatus aboue all things delighted in Hawking, and on a day, being wearie, he wandred without cõpany with his hawke on his fiſt into a moſt pleaſant valley, where he ſhrowded himſelfe vnder the ſhadowe of a tuft of greene trées, with purpoſe to reſt himſelfe, and euen when his eyes were readie to yeelde to ſlumber, he was reuiued from his drowſineſſe by the noyſe of a kennell of hounds that paſt by him in chaſe of a Stagge, after whom Arbaſtus and diuers in his company (though to him vnknowne) followed, who being paſſed by whileſt he was in a deepe ſtudie to thinke what they ſhould be, he eſpied a beautiful damſell entring the ſame valley, who being ſomewhat wearie liking the proſpect of that ſhadie tuft of trées alighted there, which Ornatus ſeeing, withdrew himſelfe from her ſight, whileſt ſhee tying her ſteed to a buſh, laid her dilicate bodie downe vppon the cooling earth, to breathe her ſelfe, and drie vp her ſweat, which the ſooner to accompliſh, ſhe vnbraced her garmẽts, and with a decẽt and comely behauiour, diſcouered her milke-white necke & breſt, beautified with two round precious teats, to receiue the breath of the cole winde, which was affected with a delight to exhale the moyſtened vapors from her pure bodie. Ornatus ſeeing all, and vnſeen himſelf, noted with delight each perfect linament of her proper bodie, beautie, ſweete fauour, and other comelineſſe, which filled his heart with exceeding pleaſure, therewith growing into an vnreſtrained affection towards her, and a great ſtudie what ſhe ſhould be, when ſuddainly his hawke feeling his fiſt vnmoueable thinking to perch her ſelf with quiet prãmde her ſelf, and with the noyſe of her belles, made Arteſia ſtart, who as one halfe agaſt, with a feareful behauior aroſe frõ the ground, looking round about her from whence that ſound came, ſhe eſpied Ornatus (who vnwilling ſhe ſhuld perceiue he had yet ſeen her, laie as if he had ſlept) Arteſia marueiling what he ſhould be, & accordingly thinking he had ſlept, cloſed her naked breſt with great haſte, and vnlooſing

vnlooking her horse, thought to go away vnespied. Which Ornatus perceiuing, and vnwilling without speaking to her to loose her sight, seemed to awake, and raising himselfe, stedfastly beheld her, which infused such a redde vermillion blush into her bewtiful cheekes, and withall such a bashful confusion spred it selfe in her conceits, that shee stood like one halfe amazed or ashamed. Which Ornatus perceiuing, drew towards her, and greeted her with these speeches. Faire Damosel, be not abasht with my presence though a straunger, which shall no way if I can chuse offend you, but rather commaund me, and I will be readie to do you any seruice. Artesia notwithstanding his speeches, withdrew her selfe, leading her horse to a banke, where with ease she mounted, and so rode away, not giuing him any answere at all. Ornatus maruelled thereat, yet rightly imputed her vnkinde departure to her feare, not discurtesie. And seeing himselfe depriued of her sight, the night approaching, departed home to his fathers house. After supper, betaking himselfe to his chamber with intent to rest, he was possessed with such remembrance of the bewtifull Damosel he had seene, that his sleepe was transformed into continuall cogitations of her bewtie, forme and fauour, and the pleasing sight he had seene in the discouery of some of her hidden bewties, imprinted such a delight in his affectionate conceits, that he could take no sleepe, but continued all that night in those meditations.

The next day thinking to shake off all further remembrance of her, he gate into company of his most chosen friends, wherein before time he toke most delight, yet nowe by reason of his distemperature, he rather seemed weary thereof. He had not continued long with them, but he was saluted by a gentleman named Phylastes, with whom he was familiarly acquainted: this gentleman belonged to an auncient Duke named Turnus, who in honour of his birth day, from which Allinus excused himselfe of purpose, because he thought he should meete Arbastus there, but because the Duke should take no offence at him, he granted that his sonne Ornatus should go to do him honour.

which Phylaſtes acquainted Ornatus withall, who glad therof, departed thither in companie of diuers other gentlemen: the Duke likewiſe had ſent another meſſenger to requeſt Arbaſtus cõpany, who being of a more milde nature then Allinus, willingly went, and with him, his Lady and faire daughter Arteſia.

CHAP. II.

How *Ornatus* came to knowledge of *Arteſia*, & intreated *Adellena* to make knowne his loue to her, and of the rebuke *Arteſia* gaue her.

After the feaſt was ended, and the Duke had honored his gueſts with all manner of curteſie, he & the principalleſt, amongſt whom Arbaſtus was one of the chief, according to the cuſtome vſed in ỹ country, ſeated themſelues to behold certaine games and exerciſes to be performed by the young Gentlemen: which was, running, wraſtling, and diuers other exerciſes for trial of the ſtrength, and nimbleneſſe of the bodie: amongſt the reſt, Ornatus (hauing neuer before made triall of himſelfe) had ſuch good ſucceſſe, and behaued himſelfe with ſuch agilitie and ſtrength, that he wanne the chæfeſt honour, and was preſented before the Duke, to receiue a rich reward.

Which when he had receiued, calling his eyes vpon the beholders, hee eſpied Arteſia whom hee perfectly knew againe, readie to depart with her parents, who had bidden the Duke farewell. Ornatus comming to Philaſtes, aſked if he knew that damoſell, ſhewing him Arteſia, who tolde him what ſhe was. Ornatus was glad of that ſmall knowledge, which could adde litle meanes to his hopes, yet ſomewhat diſcontented that ſhee was daughter to Arbaſtus. And thus the day being ended, euery one departed to their abodes.

Ornatus hauing againe attained his chamber, ſpent his time all reſt in ſundrie cogitations of his loue, and how to giue her knowledge

knowledge of his affection, noting euery danger, and pondering how discontentedly his parents would take the same, if it should by any meanes come to their knowledge, finding so many lettes to hinder him, that hee was oftentimes in vtter dispaire of attaining to the least hope of good successe. But finding his affections to increase more and more, and burning with a feruent desire, which nothing but onely her fauour could extinguish.

After that night was past, earelie the next morning hee wandred towards the place where hee hadde beheld her with such exceeding content, and by the way as he went, hee met with a gentlewoman named Adellena, of meane birth, and small liuing, yet of good education, who oftentimes resorted to Arbastus house, and was going thither at that instant, into whose company he insinuated himselfe, so that hee sawe her alone, and said as followeth.

Gentlewoman, I am bold to intreat a word or two with you. Sir replied she, with a good will, I will satisfie you in what I can: know you not (quoth he) Arbastus? I do quoth she, both know him, and am very well acquainted with him, vnto whose house I am now going. So would I quoth he if I durst, for I serue Ornatus, sonne to Allinus, whom I do not doubt but you know well, of whom I would tell you more, but that I feare to commit his secrets to them I knowe not, and thereby vnwillingly do him iniurie: but would you vouchsafe but to heare them, keepe them secret, and withall adde your helpe to further him, which you may with safetie performe, you shoulde do him an exceeding pleasure, and withall, be so highly rewarded and thankefully gratified, that you should thinke your labour very well imployed: do a deede of pittie, and binde him to you in the perpetuall bands of kinde friendship.

Sir replied Adellena, I knowe not the Gentleman, yet I haue heard him much commended, in whom if I coulde any way pleasure, I woulde vse both diligence and secrecie, promising you vppon my faith and credit, if you

will make me acquainted with your minde, I will either doo my good will to further him, or else conceale what you shall commit to my priuitie.

Then said he, my maister not long since walking in yonder valley, beheld Artesia, faire Artesia, daughter to Arbastus, to whose bewtie he is exceedingly inthralled, that vnlesse some meanes of comfort be found to ease his torments, I feare me it will indanger his life: whom you onely may pleasure, by making his loue knowne to her, in such sort as shal best agree with your wisedome. This is all, and yet so much, that the reuealing thereof may doo much harme. And to effect such a contract, might procure peace and vnitie twixt their parents. Therefore I intreate your aide and furtherance herein: with which good newes, if I returne to him, I know it will breede no little comfort to his disquiet heart.

Sir (said she) since I perceiue his loue is grounded vppon vertue, not drawne thereto by any desire of reward, I vndertake to be his assistant therein, and will to the vttermost of my best indeuours labour to procure his content. Which this day I will in some sort put in execution. And if you returne to me to morrow, you shall know her answere. I will said he, and so they departed. Ornatus hauing left her, entered into many cogitations of this rash attempt, accounted himselfe ouercredulous to commit his secrets to her priuitie, of whose fidelitie he had neuer made tryall: sometimes comforting himselfe with hope of good euent, and againe dispairing of comfort, for that he supposed Artesia would rather esteeme him as an enemie then a friend, by reason of their parents hatred, and therefore would the more hardly be drawne to giue any credit to his suite. And reuoluing a chaos of these and such like confused cogitations, he attained his fathers house, thinking the time tedious vntil his appointed meeting with Adellena: which he ouerpast with great care. Adellena after her departure from him, some attained to Arbastus house, vsing her selfe as she had formerly done, yet withall carefull how to execute the charge she had in hand, which she could by no occasion vtter,

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till after dinner when she found Artesia all alone in the garden, insinuated her self into her company, which Artesia kindly accepted, entring into varietie of discourses, and continuing some time in giuing certaine hearbes their proper names: amongst the rest, Artesia espied an herbe with partie coloured leaues, demanding of Adellena if she knew the name thereof, which she told her she did not. I haue oftentimes quoth Artesia seene this hearbe, and it hath two prettie names, it is by some called Loue in Idlenesse, and by some Harts Ease: with that Adellena fetcht a deep though counterfeit sigh, which Artesia noting, said: What maketh you sigh to heare it named Harts Ease? Mary (quoth she) one way because those two names so ill agree, an other, for by the same I call to remembrance the harts griefe I heard a young man complain of procured by loue, which was not in idlenesse, but I think in good earnest. Why quoth Artesia, can loue procure such harts griefe to any, and not rather content? Yea said she, because the partie in loue, hath no hope to attaine the good liking of the partie he loueth. Thē quoth Artesia, I account him a fole that wil loue so deeply without hope of reward: and that to be rather fondnesse then true friendship, that placeth his affections with such inequalities. But I pray tel me what is he into whose secrets you were so suddenly admitted? Not admitted (quoth she) for vnawares I heard his complaints, which afterwards I promised him not to make any acquainted withall, but the partie whom he so intierly loueth. Then quoth Artesia, I may not know, neither do I care, for it is but a vanitie that troubleth ones cogitations. Yes quoth she, you may and shall if you please, know who he is, conditionally you wil neither be offended with me for telling you, nor reueale what I shal impart. Why quoth she, am I the partie, or doth it any way concern me, that I should be offended? If it be, thē keepe your counsels vnreuealed, for it wil proue vnsauorie to my stomacke, for be it far from me to be troubled with the vaine suites of doting louers. Yet let me answere quoth Adellena, you beare too greeuous a conceit of loue, which is the diuine puritie whereby hearts are vnited in vertue. Without the which, neither mortals can attaine heauen, nor other creatures haue their being:

therefore not to bee abhorred: and for that any ſhould loue your ſelfe, can that be an offence to you, but rather be accepted in kind ſort? we ſhould by nature loue them that loue vs, then will you contrarie to nature, yeeld hatred for loue? For you indeed are the partie that is beloued, and the partie that is ſo far in loue with you euery way to be commended, & one way diſcõmended, whoſe name I will not reueale, & then I hope I ſhall breed no offence to your eares. Do ſo quoth Arteſia, for in concealing the ſame, you pleaſe me, & if you will be welcome into my cõpany, vſe no more theſe ſpeeches. Had I thought quoth ſhe, they would haue bin offenſiue, I would not haue vttered them, but in ſo doing, I did but fulfill your requeſt: then at my requeſt againe quoth ſhe, giue ouer. After this communicatiõ ended, they parted, Adellena home to to her houſe, and Arteſia to her ſupper, and afterwards to her chamber, where at firſt ſome cold thoughts of thoſe ſpeeches paſt in her fancie, but afterwards ſhe ſpent the reſt of that night in quiet ſleepe.

CHAP. III.

How *Adellena* cõueied *Ornatus* letter into *Arteſias* Caſket, and with what impatiencie *Arteſia* tooke the ſame.

THe morning being newly approched, Ornatus who had long expected the ſame, aroſe and ſone gat to Adellenas houſe, where he arriued before ſhe was vp, who hauing knowledge thereof, ſone came downe to him, (taking him to bee no other then Ornatus man) to whom ſhee declared the very truth of all her ſpeeches hadde with Arteſia. Which nipt him at the heart, but being put in ſome hope by her perſwaſions, at laſt giuing her a purſe full fraught with Gold in recompence of her paines paſt, and to entice her to vndertake more, hee ſaid as followeth.

God Adellena be not diſmaied to proſecute my ſute for Arteſias firſt frowne, for I am not Ornatus man, but more Ornatus himſelfe,

himselfe, that languish with desire to attaine her loue, which I would my selfe prosecute, if the discords betwixt our parents did not hinder the same. Therefore I beseech you once againe doo something in my behalfe, for you see how cruell destenie hath shut me from all meanes to bee put in practise by my selfe, and you may pleasure me without any hazard at all: for which I will rest so thankfull vnto you, as that you shall account your paines taken wel bestowed.

Sir replied she, I would vndertake any thing to further you, if I knew which way, but I perceiue Artesia's frowardnesse is such, that nothing I shall bring her wil be welcome, but if you wil aduise me what I shal do, I wil once againe hazard the losse of her good liking for your sake. Which said, Ornatus wrote a Letter which he desired her by some meanes to conuey to her sight, the contents whereof were these.

To the faire Artesia.

FAirest of creatures, be not offended with my boldnesse, but rather fauourably censure of my good meaning: for being bound to honour none but most vertuous, I thought it my dutie to giue you knowledge thereof, desiring you to pittie the extremitie of my passions, procured by the attainture of your conquering perfections. I confesse you may alledge many things as reasons, to dissuade you from giuing credit to my speeches, or yeelding me the least fauour in your conceits: yet I beseech you, make but tryall of loyaltie, loue, and dutie, so farre as shall agree with your liking, and you shall finde me constant in the one, and perseuerant in the other, as one that hath submitted himselfe to your commaund, vowed his deuotions to purchase your fauour, and euerlastingly bound himselfe to be onely yours: vnable to expresse my humble meaning: vnwilling to be offensiue, and desirous of fauour: then I beseech you be fauourable to me, though bearing the name of an enemie, in whom you shall finde the true heart of a con-

conſtant friend, whoſe ſafetie, comfort, and preſeruation, reſteth in your power. The firſt view of your bewtie (which was in the valley when you were laſt hunting) ſurpriſed my heart with ſuch humble regard to your vertues, that euer ſince my heart hath indured the bitter torments of fearefull diſpaire, which vrgeth me to this preſumption, deſiring from your ſacred lippes to receiue my ſentence of comfort, or affliction, rather then to ſpend my life in languiſhing vnreuealed torment. Then be you gratious to him, that is otherwiſe moſt miſerable, and ſhewe fauour to an vndeſeruing vnknowne friend, ſo ſhall you not onely ſhewe that you are merciſull, but alſo ſaue a miſerable louer from vtter ruine.

Your humble friend
Ornatus.

Adellena hauing receiued this Letter, tolde him ſhe would deliuer the ſame, which the next day ſhe performed in this ſort: Being come to Arbaſtus houſe, ſhe continued moſt part of the day in Arteſias company, not once renuing the leaſt remembrance of the talke ſhe had with her the day before, but eſpying her open her Caſket wherein ſhe put her workes, whileſt Arteſia was buſie, ſhe priuily conueyed the Letter vnſeene into the ſame, which vp and by Arteſia locked, for none but her ſelfe had the vſe thereof.

Adellena thought long til ſhe was gone, fearing leaſt Arteſia ſhould vpon ſome occaſion open the Caſket again, and ſo find the Letter, whileſt ſhe were there, therefore ſhe ſone founde meanes to depart. When the time of reſt was come, and Arteſia alone in her bed, taking a booke according to her vſuall manner to reade a while, ſhe ſuddenly fel a ſleepe, and in her ſleepe was poſſeſt with a dreame, wherein her thoughts called to remembrance Adellena ſpeeches, which mooued ſuch a diſquiet conceit of anger in her breſt, that thinking ſhe had chid her, with the motions of her ſpirites ſhe awaked, feeling an exceeding diſtemperature

temperature in all her parts, and seing the light stil burning, she marueiled at her drowsinesse that had before forgatte to put the same out, and by this meanes called to remembrance Adellens speeches, marueiling what he should be that was in loue with her, and suddenly againe, reproouing her selfe for giuing her mind libertie to think of loue, she would haue banisht al further remembrance thereof out of her minde, but the more she laboured, the more vnable she was to preuaile in ouermastring her fancies, that being both vexed with her selfe, and Adellena, she vttered these speeches.

What disquiet is this possesseth my heart, procureth such vnwonted cogitations to rise in my fancies, and disturbeth my rest? I was not wont to trouble my thoughts with such vaine cogitations, which the more I labour to suppresse, the more they encrease.

Could Adellenas speeches haue such force (which I had wel nigh forgotten) as thus long to sticke in my remembrance? Or what reason haue I to regard them that were not worth the regarding? but rather tended to demonstrate the affection of some ouerfond louer, that seeketh to intrappe my chastitie? Accursed be her lippes for vttering them, and would to God I had bene deaffe that I might not haue heard their inchaunting sound.

This saide, she catcht vp her Booke, thinking by reading to driue away all remembrance thereof, but her heart was so fully possest with a kinde of cogitation what he should be that she neither could reade, or when she did reade, remember what she did reade: and finding this meanes not auaileable, she started from her bedde, opening her Caskat to take out her sampler, wherein she toke most delight, when suddenly she espied the Letter, and reading the superscription, was halfe astonished thereat, especially howe it should come there, and what the contents should bee, boring oftentimes in minde to teare the same in peeces and not to reade it, which her heart would not suffer her to do before she had seene what was the contents: yet striuing to ouermaister her affections, she toare the same

in the midſt: which done, ſuch a remorſe roſe in her fancie, united with a deſire to know further thereof, that leaping into the bed, ſhe cloſed the ſame togither, and betwirt a willing and vnwilling minde, redde the ſame throughout. With that, fetching a deepe ſigh, ſhe ſaid: Aye me poore ſoule, how are my affections betraied to mine enemie? Was it Ornatus ſhe ment? can it be that he will proue my friend, that is my profeſſed enemie? O no: he intendeth nothing leſſe then loue, but rather vnder colour thereof, ſeeketh my ruine. Was it he that I beheld in the valley? or is it poſſible that he ſhould be ſo deepely in loue with me vppon that ſmall ſight? No, no, I will not credit his ſpeeches, but ſtil repute him as an enemie, as indeed he is: and hencefoorward abandon Adellenaes company, by whoſe meanes this Letter was conueyed into my Caſket: then tearing the ſame into a thouſand peeces, ſhe abſtained ſo neare as ſhe could from all thought of yeelding the leaſt conſent to loue, and ſought to increaſe her diſdaine, and ſuſpect of his falſhood, ſpending the reſt of that night in confuſed contrarieties of doubtful thoughts. Early in the morning ſhe gate vp, and within ſhort time met with Adellena, who was come as deſirous to know what vſue her deuiſe had taken) and finding occaſion fitte when none was by, ſhe vttered theſe ſpeeches.

Adellena, I marueil what follie ruleth your minde, that you (whom I had thought had bene vertuouſly giuen) ſhould ſeeke my ruine: wherein haue I ſhowne my ſelfe ſo vnkinde, that you ſhould requite me in this diſcourteous ſort? You remember the ſpeeches paſt betwirt vs the other day in the Gardein, when I finding out your intent by your ſpeeches, deſired you to giue ouer to vſe any more talke to that effect, which you faithfully promiſed, but now moſt vnfaithfully haue broken, and more impudently haue betraied my quiet with your diſquiet: ill ſounding newes: if your rudeneſſe had beene ſuch that you could not deſiſt, you might then haue deliuered Ornatus falſe and fained inchauntment into my hands, and not ſo ſecretly haue conueyed the ſame into my Caſket, wherein you haue made me amendes for my loue,

lone, to seeke to betray my life into the hands of mine enemy: for otherwise I neither can nor will esteeme him. Therefore hencefowards come no more into my company, for I forsweare your familiaritie, hate your counsell, and wil cause my father to banish you his house, and alienate his friendship from you for euer.

Adellena would haue answered, but Artesia refusing to hear her, departed, and left her so much greeued, that for extream vexation, she immediately departed towards her owne house.

CHAP. IIII.

How *Ornatus* dispairing, left his fathers house, and disguising himselfe, was entertained of *Arbastus*.

ORnatus desirous to heare how Artesia had accepted his Letter, came to Adellenaes house, and found her weeping for anger, desiring to know the cause thereof, which she declared to him at large, which wrought suche an exceeding passion of griefe in his mind, that without yeelding her either thāks for her paines or other speech, he departed: being so much ouercome with inward sorrow, that finding a solitarie place, he laide himselfe downe vpon the earth, vttering these lamentations.

O miserable caitiffe, what hast thou to do but lament when thy ill fortune yeelds nothing but cause of lament? Why should thy life last to endure these tormentes, and not rather to dissolue into vnseene essences? Could any thing haue happened to me more miserable, then to beheld Artesia, and now to endure her crueltie? or more fortunate, if she had bene merciful? But my Destenies haue drawne me to like her that hateth me, and to become thrall to a cruell vnrelenting enemie. Well my loue is sweeter then my life, and therefore I wil venture life and all to purchase her liking.

Hauing said this, he a while sat silent, when suddeinly to sa-

nour his extremities, he beheld certaine of his familiars paſſe by, with whome he departed home.

Early the next morning being exceedingly troubled in minde and impatient of delaie) he left his fathers houſe to viſite Adellena againe, whome hee had the day before left ſo vnkindly, whome hee founde readie to goe to Arbalus houſe againe, ſaluting her ſaide: Adellena, bee not offended at my laſt vnmannerly departure, for my heart was ſo muche diſquietted at the ill ſucceſſe my ſute tooke, that I could not vſe that behauiour towardes you your paines deſerued, but newe I am returned to craue your counſell what is further to be done herein.

Syr replied ſhee, I know not what further meanes to vſe neither dare I any more attempt to trie Artefias curteſie, who is alreadie ſo much offended with me, that I feare to loſe her friendſhip for euer, if I ſhould vtter that againe that is ſo vnwelcome to her.

Ornatus hearing her ſpeeches, thought ſhe was vnwilling to proſecute his ſute any farther, with a heauie heart left her, entering into many thoughtes and cogitations which way to comfort himſelfe, oftentimes vtterly diſpairing, and yet purpoſing to leaue no meanes vnaſſaied, nor daunger vnattempted, though with hazards of his life to purchaſe ſome reſt to his troubled heart.

At length he thought with himſelfe what ſhould make Artefia ſo hard hearted as to giue no credite to my ſpeeches: it is not her want of lenitie, pittie, or wiſedome, for ſhe is young, and therefore ſubiect to loue: beautifull, and therefore to be wonne: wiſe, and therefore will with conſideration pittie my ſorrowes. What then ſhould alienate her good liking from me, more then from an other? My Name: for by that ſhe reputeth me an enemie: then were I not Ornatus, ſhe would peraduenture giue ſome regard to my ſutes. Therefore I will chaunge my name, and bee an other then I am, that ſhee not knowing me, may (if not loue me) yet diſiſt to hate me: then began hee to ſtudie

what

what meanes to vse to enioy her sight (without the which hée could not liue) and yet not be knowne what he was. Amongst many other deuises, this tooke deepest roote. Within fewe dayes after (hauing prouided all things necessary) he attired himselfe like a virgine of a straunge Countrey (which hée might well be esteemed to be by his youth.) And taking with him his Lute, whereon he could play exceedingly well, in the silent of the night he departed towards the sea coast, which was neare vnto Arbastus house: and seating himselfe vpon the Rockie shoare, begunne to play vpon his Lute. Early the next morning, a shepheard happened to passe by that way, and espying his straunge disguise, and hearing his sweete Musicke, was so exceedingly delighted therewith, that he stayed to see what he was.

Ornatus turning himselfe about, espied the olde man stand gazing vpon him, wherewith he drew towardes him, and saide as followeth.

God Father, muse not to see me in this vnfrequented place, being by shipwracke cast on this shore, and preserued from a greeuous death by sea, to perish for want of comfort on the land, in a straunge place, where I neither haue friendes, nor know which way to get comfort. Therefore I beseech you, yeeld comfort to my distresse, and succour to my want. Faire Damosell quoth the shepheard, if my homely Cottage can yeeld you any comfort, so please you to accept thereof, it shalbe at your commaund, whither so please you go, without more circumstance of speeches, you shalbe most hartily welcome. I thanke you quoth Ornatus, and I accept your gentle proffer, so they departed togither. And when they were entered, and the shepheardesse in the best maner she could had welcomed him, and he had tasted of such foode as was set before him, hée tolde them his name was Syluia, and telling a tale of sufficient countenance to beare credite of the maner of their shipwracke, and the cause he vndertooke that voyage by Sea. Which the olde folkes beleeued: Likewise framing himselfe to such a kinde of behauiour, that it was almost impossible to discerne but that he was a woman indeed.

Where

Where Syluia (for vnder that name he ſhall a while paſſe) ſtaied ſome two daies, yet without any hope how to enioy Arteſias company. But the third day it fortuned Arbaſtas being abroad hunting, was by a violent ſtorme driuen to ſeeke ſhelter, and moſt fortunately lighted on the ſhepheards Cottage, where he boldly entered without calling, and ſuddenly eſpying Syluia, was halfe aſtoniſht to beholde a damoſell ſo bewtifull and richly attired in that homely place, but after that he had a while viewed her well, (Syluia being alone) with a curteous behauiour he thus ſpake.

Faire damoſell, pardon my boldneſſe, if I haue diſquietted you, I little thought to haue found ſuch gueſtes in this homely place. Syluia knowing him to be Arbaſtus, aroſe, but made him no anſwere: when preſently the olde ſhepheard came in, vſing great reuerence to Arbaſtus, who demaunded of him, what damoſell that was, whereupon the olde man declared all that he knew.

Arbaſtus then thus ſaid: Damoſell, I vnderſtand by this ſhepheard ſome part of your miſfortunes, which I ſo much pittie, that I offer to do any thing reſteth in me to do you pleaſure. And for that this homely place is not agreeable to your birth, which may be greater then I can iudge of, let me deſire you to accept of ſuch entertainment as my habitation yeeldeth, whither you ſhall be welcome. Syluia being glad of that proffer, yet fearing to be diſcouered by his willingneſſe to yeeld, made this anſwere. Sir, this homely place is beſt agreeing to my poore eſtate, being by my fortune brought to miſerie: which I am alſo vnworthie of, for that I know not how to make my hoſte amends, deſiring rather to liue in this quiet pallace voyde of care, then in places of more dignitie: but for that I ſhall be chargeable to this poore man, and you ſo earneſtly deſire me, I wil be ſo bolde as to take your proffer, though vnable to be ſo grateful as I would. Many other ſpeaches paſt betwixt them, and in the ende they departed towards Arbaſtus Caſtle: where Syluia was kindly and worthily entertained, hauing his hearts deſire, which was to enioy

the

the ſight of faire Arteſia.

Ornatus being alone by himſelfe, began to meditate of the good ſucceſſe he had in this attempt, and how fortunately all things had fallen out to further him in his loue. But moſt of all hee meruailed how the eyes of all that beheld him were blinded, that they could not perceiue what he was. In theſe & many ſuch like comfortable meditations he ſpent ſome three or foure dayes, taking moſt great content in beholding Arteſiaes perfections, that he was more and more inthralled in the bands of vowed affection, hearing her ſpeech, noting her behauiour, admiring her vertue, commending her curteſie, affecting her bewtie, and imprinting each liniament of her diuine forme, in his deuoted affection, with ſuch immoueable reſolue of conſtant loyaltie, that hee did not onely loue her, but alſo honor her as an Idoll, being by Arbaſtus admitted her companie, that at all times hee was with her. Arteſia likewiſe tooke no little pleaſure in Syuians company, in whom ſo much curteſie abounded, that euery one both liked and commended her.

CHAP. V.

How *Adellena* brought newes to *Arbaſtus* houſe of *Ornatus* ſuddaine departure. How he naming himſelfe Syluian, a long time enioyed her company, and what ſucceſſe he had in his loue.

ADellena hauing heard of Ornatus departure from his fathers houſe, and of the exceeding care and griefe his parents tooke, fearing leaſt he might by ſome trecherie be murdred, with which newes ſhee came to Arbaſtus houſe, and ſoone publiſhed the ſame, that the newes came to Arbaſtus hearing, who was exceedingly ſorie to heare the ſame, for that hee eſteemed well of Ornatus. And now comming into the garden where Arteſia

was walking with Sylain, she could not withhold her selfe from speaking, but vttered her minde in these words.

Artesia be not offended with that I say, but rather bee displeased with your selfe, who are the originall of this woe. Ornatus whom you supposed your enemie, though indeede your most faithfull friend, taking your vnkind refusall most heauily, and accounting himselfe not worthy to liue if you dispised him, eyther hath wrought his owne vntimely death, or dispairing to finde fauour at your hands, hath abandoned both his parents, countrey, and acquaintance, to liue in exile. What will bee sayd of you when the cause of this sorrowe shall be knowne? how may your owne conscience accuse your selfe of hard-hartednesse, that wold not yeeld pittie to the distresse of so worthie, vertuous, & curteous a Gentlemã, who for his humble suite, was spightfully disdained, and his heartie good will, disdainfully reiected? Which cruell deed of yours, no doubt will be one day repayed with the like disdaine, where you shall most affect. I know his loue was firme, constant and immoueable, which maketh me so much the more pittie his estate: I know his meaning was both vertuous & honorable, his birth you know, what vertues abounded in him, all can witnesse: and how hartily he loued you, the heauēs cā witnesse. Poore Ornatus farewell. Hard was thy hap, to place thy true loue so firmly, where thou reapest so little reward. Artesia hearing her speeches, could not tell whether shee might blame her, or accuse her selfe, sometimes doubting whether she spake this of pollicie to try her, or of truth. Being as readie to blame her selfe, as Adellena, and yet willing to do neither. For she thought if she spake true, shee had good cause to say that shee did, and her selfe more to be blamed then any. For notwithstanding she had giuen Adellena so flat a denial, yet her conscience knew, that some sparkes of loue were kindled in her breast: That her heart being somewhat oppreſt with these thoughts, caused the water to stand in her eyes. Ornatus seeing all this, took no litle comfort therat, especially whē he perceiued Artesias heart to relent, but for that by his disguise, being known no other then a woman, he kept silence, when faine

hee

hee would haue spake, least he should discouer himselfe. Adellena seeing she had disquieted Artesia, being her selfe full of greefe, and vnwilling to vrge her any further, departed. And Artesia withdrawing her selfe from Syluians company, into an Arbor, vttered these speeches. And can it be that Ornatus loue was so great, that for my sake hee hath dons this? Could hee loue her so constantly that was his professed enemie: is loue of such a force, to draw one into these extreames? Then may I compare it to the heard Arras, found in Persia, who being but holden in the hand, causeth a heat through all the bodie: so loue but entertained in thought, disquieteth all the senses. But why do I conceiue so well of Ornatus, when I know not the truth of Adellenaes report: it may be he hath hired her to do this, and thereby I may be deceiued, yelding to pitie, when there is no cause, and with the bird Akanthus, readie to come at euerie call. Admit it were so, I am not bound to fauour him, is he not my enemie, a sonne vnto my fathers chiefest foe? what reason then haue I eyther to giue credit to his loue, or her protestation, when both may be fayned? Well I will be aduised before I yelde my selfe to loues intangling baytes, and before I loue, I will know whom I loue. I but Artesia thy fancie yeldeth remorse alreadie, and thy conscience bids thee pittie him because he loueth thee, for loue in a reputed enemie may be as constant and loyall as in an open friend, and an enemie becomming friend, will be the more constant: then what hast thou to do, but make further proofe of his constancie, and finding him true, yelde reward to his desert? Soft Artesia, wade not too far: if he be constant, if he be loyall, if he loue thee so intirely, yet now thou hast made him forsake this countrey, or procure his vntimely death, then is there nothing else to be don for thee, but to pittie his death, and accuse thy selfe of some discurtesie. All this while Ornatus shrowding himselfe from her sight, by the thicknesse of the greene leaues, heard her speeches, to his exceeding comfort, and againe closelie withdrew himself. Artesia hauing ended her speeches, her hart being oppreſt with many doubts, arose and came to Syluian, to whom she said: My minde is much troubled with the newes Adellena told me of Ornatus absence, whom for that you know not, I will tell you what he was.

There dwelleth not far hence, one Allinus, that mortally hateth my father, & all that belong vnto him, whoſe ſonne Ornatus was, whom if I ſhould commend, you might thinke me too cruel to refuſe his loue ſo vnkindly, only thus much I wil ſay of him, he was euery way worthy to be beloued, though my fancie could neuer be drawne to like of him: who vpon what occaſion I know not, but as Adellena tolde me, made his loue knowne to her, which ſhe likewiſe told me of, but I refuſing to heare her, anſwered her plainly, that I was greatly offended with her, for making any ſuch motion: and forbad her for euer to ſpeak of him againe. But now this day you haue heard what ſhe hath told me, which I can hardly beleeue to be true, or that Ornatus would be ſo raſh without wiſedome to enter into ſuch extreames. But if it bee ſo (as I would it were not) it greeueth me for him, and I wiſh that I had not refuſed to heare his ſute, though I am not willing to yeeld thereto. For I would not haue it ſaid of me, nor my name ſo much blazed, that my crueltie procured him to that extremitie, though his wiſedome might haue foreſeene ſuch miſchiefe, and he more moderatelie haue tempered his loue.

Ornatus taking occaſion ſaid, I neither know the gentleman, nor how conſtant his loue was, but thus much my mind perſwadeth me, that had not his loue bin great, he would not haue greeued ſo much at your vnkindneſſe: but loue is of this force, that it turneth the minde into extreames, or vtterly breaketh the heart, which force belike it had in him, elſe would he not haue done himſelfe ſo much harme. But it may be (as you ſay) Ornatus hath not done himſelfe outrage, but onely abandoning company, liueth in diſpaire, and ſo meaneth to die: which if it bee ſo, then in my fancie, you might do well to let him by ſome meanes vnderſtand that you did pittie him. Stay there quoth Arteſia, you muſt firſt know whether I can do it or no: for If I ſhould ſay I pittie with my lips, and he not find it ſo, it would driue him to more diſpaire, and therefore I will leaue off to do that, vntill I can finde whether I can do ſo or no.

Theſe her ſpeeches draue Ornatus into a perplexed doubt what

what to thinke, being no way assured of her loue, nor yet vtterly dispairing thereof, for that her speeches gaue likelyhood of both. Therefore he durst not speake too boldly, least she should suspect him, but onely rested in good hope to finde comfort, and by other meanes to trie her.

Then taking his Lute, he began to play so sweetly, as would haue rauisht a comfortlesse mind, with great content: to heare which harmonie pleased Artesia so well, that when he left, shee would request him, calling him Syluian, to play againe. Whilest he sat playing, Artesia sitting close by his side, fel fast a sleep, which he perceiuing, left of his play, to surfet himself with beholding her sweete beawties, in which he toke such delight, as almost rauisht his senses, sometimes thinking whilest she slept, to imprint a kisse vppon her sweet ruddie lippe, but fearing thereby to wake her, and lose that delightfull contemplation, hee desisted beholding each part of her visible forme, which was most diuine, his minde was affected with inward suppose, what perfections her hidden bewties did comprehend, which his fancie perswaded him, he did in conceit absolutely contemplate. Then fixing her eiere, he suddainly catcht his lute againe, striking his sweet noate, to continue her in that slumber, and then againe, laying by the same, to enter into his former contemplation. Comparing his delight to exceed all heauenly ioy, and wishing though Artesia could not loue him, yet that shee would alwayes graunt him so to behold her.

When he had a good while continued in these meditations, Artesia awoke, which somewhat greeued him, but when hee beheld her bewteous eyes fixed vppon him, he thought himselfe inriched with a heauenly happinesse, to whom Artesia said, I thank thee good Syluian, for thy sweet musicke hath somewhat eased my heart, by this quiet sleepe. O what content do they enioy, that liue voyde of care, and how happie was I before I heard Ornatus name? With that she arose, and they togither went in: when night approched (which Ornatus thought too soone come, for by that he must lose Artesiaes sight) euery one betoke themselues

to their seuerall lodgings.

Ornatus studying what meanes to vse to further his loue, wherin he found many difficulties, sometimes in thinking Artesia was in hope neuer to heare of him againe, and sometimes supposing she did pitie him, and being ouercome with contrarieties of doubts, he vttered these complaints.

What shuld I do to procure my content, when my miseries are one way great, & my ioyes as exceeding, when my dispaire exceedeth, and yet my comfort aboundeth? I enioy not Artesias loue, yet she loueth me not: I enioy her sight, and yet not her sight. I haue as much comfort as fills me with ioy, & yet I am desperate with dispaire. How can that be? She loueth me as I am Syluian, but hateth me, because she loueth not Ornatus. Vnder the name of Syluian, I enioy her sight, but not as Ornatus, and so am I depriued of her sight. I reape exceeding comfort by beholding her beawty, but I liue in dispaire, that she wold shun loue if she knew what I were. Though I enioy many things by being Syluian, yet am I depriued of all comfort, as I am Ornatus. For she deemed him either dead or fled, hath no hope euer to see him, and if I should shew any signe that hee were liuing or neare, she wold presently eschew my company: which being as I am, I may enioy: & thus am I voyd of all meanes of attayning her loue, yet liuing as I am, I shall still enioy her loue. Why Ornatus, thou hast better meanes to giue her knowledge of thy loue in this disguise, then if thou liuedst as Ornatus. Suppose thou shuldest make known to her what thou art, thinkest thou she would bewray thee, considering thou offerest no other behauiour to wards her, then that which agreeth with vertue? Or what if shee did betray thee, wert thou not better to indure the greatest extremitie by her don, then pyne away with greefe in her absence? Yes Ornatus, in being as thou art, thou art more happie, and therfore maiest thou be in some better hope of comfort. What if shee will not loue thee? yet for thy good will shee cannot hate thee. And though she know what thou art, shee will rather conceale thee, then bewray thee: then try whether she loueth thee or no, but how? Make my selfe

knowne.

knowne.

So. I will write a letter, which I will leaue in ſome place where ſhe may finde it, and by that meanes I ſhall ſee whether ſhee will loue or no. And taking pen ynke and paper, he wrote as followeth.

To the moſt vertuous Arteſia, *the forſaken.*
Ornatus *ſendeth humble greeting.*

WEre you but ſo merciful as fayre, I woulde not diſpaire of pittie. Or were you willing to know my truth and loyaltie, you woulde though not yeeld to my ſute, yet pittie mee. I cannot vſe proteſtations nor diſſemble greefe: but be you moſt aſſured, that what proceedeth out at my lippes, commeth from my hart: extremitie maketh mee ouerbolde, and diſpaire maketh mee more deſperate, in vttering my minde: I cannot chuſe but ſay I loue you, for that I loue indeed. I cannot ſet foorth my loue with fyled termes, but in plaine truth, proteſt that my loue is conſtant, loyall, vertuous, and immoueable: and though you hate, I muſt loue: and though you for euer denie to loue, yet will I perſiſt in conſtancie: for the woorſt I can indure is death: and that my ſoule alreadie inwardly feeleth. I haue forſaken my parents, friends, and all to become acceptable to you: for whileſt I was *Allinus* ſonne, you did hate me, then I beſeech you, now that I am not *Allinus* ſonne, nor *Ornatus*, pittie mee. For without your pitie I die, and litle can my death profit you, but letting me liue, you ſhal for euer enioy a faithfull ſeruant. So moſt vertuous *Arteſia*, I commit my cauſe to your wiſe conſideration.

Yours inſeparablie, neyther Ornatus
nor himſelfe, but your poore
ſeruant.

When

When he had written this Letter, and sealed the same, the next morning he laid it in a place of the garden, where he knewe Artesia would walke. And from thence comming to her chamber, he found her readie to go forth.

Artesia welcommed Syluian kindely, and forth they went togither, and walking vp and downe a prittie while, Artesia espied the white paper, and desirous to see what it was, took it vp, reading the superscriptiõ, marueiled what the contents shuld be, and how it should come there, and turning to Syluian, see you this letter, it is directed to me, I marueil how it shuld come here, vnlesse it were laid of purpose: well howsoeuer that was, I will reade the contents, and you shall be partaker of them. When she had redde the same, and well vnderstood that it was Ornatus, at the first shee was so exceedingly vexed, that she said: I now perceiue, that Ornatus was wiser then I toke him to bee, for I see he hath committed no outrage vppon himselfe, but wisely will trie me first, and if I will not yelde to loue him, what will hee do? marrie returne to his father againe. This is Adellenaes doing, and according as I thought they are agreed: shee left this letter here, and her may I blame, and not him. For did not she promise him to do it, he would neuer of himself attempt it. Syluian I pray thee counsaile me, what I should do herein, for my heart is oppressed with many thoughts, that I will not vtter vntill I know thy minde?

Syluian thus answered: since you haue giuen me licence to speake that which my heart thinketh, first I say, if Ornatus loueth according as he protesteth, as no doubt but he doth, you haue good reason to pittie him, for that by your owne report, he is euery way worthy thereof, which if you do, you shalbe sure of a constant friend, preserue his life, and make vnitie betwixt your parents. As for Adellenaes if it were her deede, she did but the part of a friend, but it was very vnlikely, for that shee was not here since yesterday. Neither can I think any man can dissemble so much as to make these protestations, and yet be false. For his

words in my fancie, beare an evident likelihood of truth. Therefore, if I may counsaile you, yeelo to that which is vertuous, and in so doing, you shall purchase your owne good, his content, and perpetuall quiet to both your families.

Would you haue me then (quoth shee) yeelde to loue mine enemie? How is hee your enemie (quoth Sylvian) when hee loueth you? He is mine enemie, because his father hating me, how can he loue me? Nay rather (quoth Sylvian) his father not louing you, how can he chuse but loue you, because he seeth them hate you, that are worthy to be beloued: besides their hatred being vnfull, it sheweth his vertue the more, to loue those his parents hate: and it is commonly seene, where there is hatred betwixt the parents, the children haue loued most dearely, as in common experience it is seene: haue you not read the Histories of Pyramus and Thysbe, Romeo and Iuliet, and many other? whose loue was the more constant, by so much the more their parents hatred was deadly.

I remember such Histories (quoth Artesia) but what was the end of their loue, was it not most miserable? I grant it was, (quoth Sylvian) which was procured by their parents cruelties, but not their loue, wherein, notwithstanding, they tooke such felicitie, that they rather chose to die together, then to be parted: which argueth, that the enmity twixt parents, cánot breake off loue twixt the children, yet might such tragical euents haue bin preuented by wisedom. But how know I (said Artesia) whether Ornatus loue bee so constant or no? Can you haue any greater proofe thereof, then his owne letters, the forsaking of his parents, and liuing peraduenture in pennurie: but if you doubt of that, once againe trie him. Well (said Artesia) I asked but thy counsaile, but in stead thereof, thou vsest perswasion: but seeing thou art so forward to do me good, which I hope is thy intent, if thou wilt keep my counsell, thou shalt know both my minde, and what I intend. Assure your selfe (quoth Sylvian) I will rather loose my life then proue vnfaithfull. Then said shee, I confesse to thee Sylvian, that loue hath made entrance into my heart, that I would willingly both

 please

pitie Ornatus, and grant him his request: for that with often remembring him, I cannot forget him, neither doth any thought please me, but when I thinke of him. But there are so many slips to hinder our loue, that though I loue him, I shall neuer enioy him. For should my parents knew heereof, they would be so warlie into my actions, that it were impossible for mee once to haue a sight of him, whom I doo scarce remember, I haue so seldome seene him. You may (quoth Syluian) both loue him, and inioy him, and since you haue begun to like of him, he being worthy thereof, and equalling you in affection, increase that loue: & might I but once come to speake with him, I would not doubt but effect all things with such secrecie, that you should with quiet enioy him.

Well quoth Artesia, I commit all to you, my life, for that dependeth on my loue, being willing to doo any thing that shall not disagree with modestie. Desiring you to keepe my counsells secret, for to bewray them, may indaunger both his and my life.

After many other speeches past betwixt them, Adellena entered the garden. Artesia espying her, at the first thus greeted her. God-morrowe Adellena, I know not whether I may salute thee as a freend, or a priuie foe, for that by thy meanes I am brought into bondage.

I pray thee tell me without dissembling (which I feare mee thou canst doo too well) when thou sawest Ornatus? and yet I know thy answere before I aske. Dost thou not know this letter? didst thou not hide it in this garden, that I might finde it? did not Ornatus hire thee to say, that hee was departed from his fathers, whilest he lyeth at home in thy house? I know thy answere will bee no: but how may I beleeue that? Dost thou not likewise say hee loueth me when thou knowest the contrarie, and doest but dissemble? If thou harbourest any vertue in thee, tell mee the truth and dissemble not: for in doing so, thou shalt greatly content me, discharge thy conscience, and peraduenture do Ornatus a good turne.

Adellena

Adellena hearing her ſpæches, was ſo aſtoniſht at their ſtrangeneſſe, that for a good while ſhe ſtood as one ſenceleſſe, but at the laſt, ſhe made this anſwere. Your demaunds are ſuch, as that I know not how to anſwere them: but heauens puniſh me, if I diſſemble. I ſaw not Ornatus ſince the time he came to me, to know how you accepted the letter I conueyed into your Caſket. For that Letter I am altogither ignorant therein, neither did I euer ſee the ſame before now: I neuer ſpake with Ornatus, ſaue Ornatus, or heard from him ſince I laſt gaue him your anſwere: neither doo I know where hee is: but this I know, that he is not to bee found: but poore Gentleman, languiſheth in loue, which I dare proteſt, loueth you moſt dearely, neither næde you miſdoubt that hee is abſent, or thinke that hee is hidden at my houſe, for it is too true, hee hath taken ſuch græfe at your vnkindneſſe, as will I feare me indaunger his life.

I would it were not ſo, but that he were at my houſe, then would I counſaile him rather to forget to loue, then indaunger his life thereby.

May I beleeue (quoth Arteſia) that this thou ſayeſt is true? Heauens let me liue no longer (quoth Adellena) if I diſſemble. Then (quoth Arteſia) how ſhould this Letter bee conueyed into this garden, but by himſelfe? With that the Chriſtall teares fell from her eyes.

CHAP. VI.

Howe *Ornatus* loue was hindered by the newes of *Arbaſtus* death: Howe *Floretus* to attaine *Syluians* loue, both confeſt hee ſlew *Arbaſtus*, and intended to poyſon *Arteſia*.

TO augment Arteſias teares, a meſſenger haſtily running, came in and brought this newes, vttering the ſame with a gaſtly countenaunce.

O Arteſia, heare my tragicke diſcourſe, your father as you know, road forth this morning to chaſe the fearefull deare, who wandring from his company, at laſt by his long ſtay was miſt, and all of vs comming togither, ſtudied amongſt our ſelues, what ſhould be become of him, at laſt wee were commaunded by Floretus your Uncle, to poſte ſeuerall wayes in ſearch of him: whom at laſt we found moſt greeuouſly wounded and dead. Arteſia hearing his words, with ſuddaine greefe, fell downe deade. Which when Sylnian perceiued, caught her in his armes, rubbing her pale cheekes, vntill ſhe was reuiued againe. Then they conueyed her to her bed, in ſuch extremitie with that ſuddaine greefe, that they feared to loſe her life, which exceedingly tormented Sylnian to behold. Then was there ſuch an vproare in Arbaſtus houſe, as all ſeemed in vtter diſpaire, one conceiuing this, an other that of Arbaſtus death, but all in generall concluding, that it was done by Allinus in reuenge of his brothers death.

Arbaſtus wife, likewiſe conceiued ſuch ſorrow at this vnexpected euent, that with very greefe thereof ſhee dyed. Arteſia with both togither, was readie to yeelde vp her lateſt breath, and had done ſo, had ſhee not beene carefullie preſerued by Sylnian, and Adellena. Who by their counſaile and indeuours, pacified the extremitie of her perplexitie. This newes was ſoone ſpread into moſt places of the countrey: but becauſe there was no iuſt proofe of the murtherer, there was no great queſtion made therof: Arbaſtus hauing neuer a truſtie friende to proſecute reuenge. Floretus now toke vpon him to rule and gouerne all that belonged to Arbaſtus, as his brother, and ſoone cauſed him and his Lady to be worthily interred, and built a ſumptuous monument in their remembrance. Which being ouerpaſt, he came againe to Arteſia, (as in the meane time he had oftentimes done) and finding her very weake, vſed many ſpeeches to comfort her, giuing ſuch as were about her ſpeciall charge, to miniſter all things neceſſarie to reſtore her to her former health: Seeming to be moſt carefull of her guard, promiſing and proteſting to bee vnto her in

Read

Read of a Father.

Syluian all this while was exceedinglie grieued in mind to ſee his loue growne ſo weake, and in ſuch danger of her life, not once forſaking her in all the time of her ſickneſſe, but continually comforting her with heartie ſpeeches, carefull tendance, not ſo much as once departing her chamber, but taking exceeding paines to pleaſure her, that ſhee toke great comfort in her ſuppoſed Syluian, who oftentimes would ſteale a ſweete kiſſe from Arteſias lippes, which ſhe permitted, taking the ſame to proceede from a curteous minde, when Syluian did it of deepe affection: accounthe eſtate wherin hee liued, to exceed all ioyes, and his delight paſt compare, profering many familiarities that Arteſia toke in kind part, which otherwiſe ſhe would haue refuſed, had ſhee knowne whom her companion Syluian had beene. Ornatus marueiled that all this time ſhe ſpake not of him, which he deuiſed to vrge her to do, by many occaſions: but theſe extremities had banniſhed all remembrance of him out of her minde: Which exceedingly tormented Ornatus, fearing this delay would ſome way turne to his ill. That whereas before time, he was pleaſant, merry, and oftentimes would moue Arteſia to mirth by his diſport, now that humour was alienated, and he became continually melancholly and ſad, oftentimes when Arteſia was from him, getting into a ſolitary place, to bewayle his hard fate. Which ſhee noted and wondred at, thinking the ſame had proceeded from being ſo long abſent from his countrey and friends. One day ſhe found her deemed Syluian ſolitarie alone, and comming vnawares, heard her vtter theſe words. Oh how vnhappy am I, to loue and not to be beloued.

Syluian eſpying her, left off: to whom Arteſia ſaid. Why how now Syluian, are you in loue, can it be, that your mind is attainted with that venemous ſerpent, that poyſoneth the ſences, altereth the complection, troubleth the head and heart? Shake it off, and caſt it out of your ſight, for it neuer did any good, but hath brought many to perpetuall miſerie.

Since you haue ouerheard me (quoth Syluian) I muſt needs

confeſſe I am in loue, which doth not any way worke any ſuch effect in me as you ſpeake off, but I take all comfort therein, my ſences, heart, head, & all my parts, take exceeding pleaſure therin. Why then (quoth Artesia) ſit you thus penſiuely alone, as it ſeemeth to me bewayling your eſtate to be in loue? I do not (quoth Syluian) ſorrow that I am in loue, but that I am not beloued againe: for being in loue, I haue vowed to liue ſo euer, and ſooner ſhall my life decay, then forget my loue: for with my loue, my life ſhall end. What hard-harted man ſaid Artesia) is he y knowing you loue him, will not loue you again? Such is my hard eſtate (ſayd Syluian) that the partie whom I loue, knoweth I loue, and yet cauſeleſſly doth hate me: neither am I farre abſent from him, but inioy his company, without which my life would decay. Is he in this houſe you loue? can it bee you are intangled ſince you came hither? No quoth Syluian) I loued before I came hither. How can that be, when you are a ſtranger, and caſt in this country by ſhipwracke? eyther you muſt needs be ſome other then we take you for, otherwiſe, theſe things are impoſſible. But if you dare put truſt in my ſecrecie, impart your minde to mee: and I promiſe you I will do the beſt I cã to further your loue. You may do much therin (quoth Syluian) and none more then your ſelf, but I beſeech you pardon me for reuealing the ſame, before you aſſure me of one thing, which you may do without any harm to your ſelf and be not offended with me if I aſk you. Tell me what it is quoth ſhe) & I will anſwere you: Then (ſaid Syluian) I weld firſt know whether you loue Ormarus or no? With y ſhe ſtarted ſaying: Ay me, that name bringeth death to my heart, & thou woundeſt my ſoule with greefe, to heare him named. Doſt thou thinke I haue cauſe to loue, & not rather aboue al men to hate him: doſt thou not ſee my father lately murdred by him, or ſome by his appointment, and thinkeſt thou I can loue ſo deadly a foe, by whom I am brought to this miſerie? No aſſure thy ſelfe Syluian, according as I haue iuſt cauſe I do hate him, as the greateſt enemie I haue. Whoſe very name affrighteth mee with terror, and if thou hadſt loued me as I was perſwaded thou didſt, thou wouldſt not haue

troubled

troubled my heart with that enuious name. And yet for all this mischiefe that he hath done me, didst thou not see how he sued for my loue, and had so much preuailed, that my heart beganne to yeeld to his suite? With that she pulled out of her pocket the letter, saying: these lynes the frutes of his dissimulation, were actors in his villanie: with that she tare them into a thousand peeces. Syluian seeing the same, was readie to sound with greefe, breathing forth a hart-burning sigh, said. O how is poore innocencie suspected.

And being readie to say more, was disappointed by Floretus comming, who euen then entered the garden, and finding them out, vsed many curteous speeches to the both, especially cõforting Artesia. To whom he said. Deare cozin, since these mishaps cãnot be remedied let wisdome now ouerswey your passionate sorrow: and with patience remit all further greefe, for things past cure are not to be lamented: but now commit the care of your safety to my trustines, ỹ will as tenderly regard your good as mine owne life. Therfore be of comfort, & whatsoeuer you desire, shalbe to ỹ vttermost accomplished. Artesia yeelded him many thanks, and so they went in. Artesia being alone by her selfe, could by no means forget what speech she had with Syluian: eyther thinking she did dissemble, or was some other then she seemed: or else that she was in loue with Floretus. Then she remembred her speeches saying. How is innocence suspected. Which she knew she spake by her, accusing of Ornatus: which draue her into many doubtfull cogitations, and troubled her sences exceedingly: but by reason of her little suspect of Syluians disguise, shee could not iudge any thing thereof. Syluian likewise not daring to offend her, and louing her so dearely, that he could not indure to see her disquietted, vsed no more speeches tending to loue, but frequenting her company wherein hee tooke his whole felicitie, accounting himselfe most happie to liue and inioy her sweete presence, seeing out of hope to attaine her loue, refreshing his heart with many sollaces of sweete delight, in beholding that which shee little thought he had noted.

Many

Many daies continued Syluian in this diſguiſe, in which time, Arbaſtus death was almoſt forgotten. And Florerus drawn by Syluians manifold vertues, begã exceedingly to affect her, vſing ſuch kinde behauiour towards her, that ſhe ſuſpected that which afterwards ſhe found true: for Florerus concealing his loue, felt the flame to burn the more inwardly, and liuing in that ſcorching pennurie, thought it better for him to manifeſt his loue, then by hyding the ſame, augment his torment. Aſſuring himſelfe to obtain his deſire, for that Syluian was a ſtranger, far from friends, and without his friendſhip, likelie to come to pouertie, which hee thought would bee meanes of importance to draw her to like of him: beſides, hee thought that hee might do as hee liſt with Arteſia, for that ſhee was onelye in his cuſtodie.

And on a day finding Syluian alone in the garden, comming to her with a ſubmiſſe behauiour, he ſaid as followeth. My deare Syluian, I would gladlie vtter a matter of an importance, if you will vouchſafe me gentle audience: So it is fayre Damoſell, that my heart hath long time bin inthralled to your bewtie, which I haue refrained to vtter, fearing to be refuſed: but knew you how faithfully my heart is deuoted to your ſeruice, and with what torment I haue concealed the ſame, you would pittie me. My eſtate is ſufficient to maintaine you well, though not ſo worthily as you deſerue: you ſhall liue with me in contented eaſe, and haue ſo faithfull and conſtant a friend, as no torment nor affliction ſhall alter.

Therefore I beſeech you, let me receiue ſome hope of comfort by your gentle ſpeeches, which ſhall expell many cares from my troubled heart.

Syluian had much ado to abſtaine from ſmiling, to thinke how vnfit he was to yelde ſuch a reward as Florerus expected: committing further conſideration thereof, to time more conuenient, gaue him this anſwere. My minde ſir is vnapt to entertaine loue, conſidering how farre I am from my countrey, and how ſone I may bee ouertaken, therefore I pray you ſake not

that

that at my hands which I wil not graunt; but if with your fauour I may liue so quietly as since my comming I haue done, I shal thinke my selfe more beholding to you for that, then for your profered loue, which I cannot yeeld vnto. Floretus thinking her soft answere was a signe she would soone yeeld, stil prosecuted his sute with earnestnesse, in so much that Sylvian tolde him that as yet she could not fancie him, because she had no triall of him, but that she would consider further thereof. And so for that time they parted. Floretus in hope to attaine that which was not to be had, and Sylvian in hope by this meanes the sooner to attaine Artesias loue. First considering that Floretus had the disposing of her, and therfore he must please him: least otherwise he might be deprived of her company. Then he began to thinke of Arbastus murther, knowing assuredly that it was not acted by his fathers counsel, but rather by some secret foe, that might as wel be Floretus as any other, for that he was the next heire if Artesia hindred him not: which conceit tooke such effectuall instance in his fancie, that with that his suspect, comparing Floretus behauiours, countenance, and litle inquiry for the murtherer, he plainly suspected him, which by the diuine prouidence, rather then by any euident proofe, was stirred in his opinion. Such murther is neuer vnreuealed, and though neuer so closely done, yet God by some extraordinary meanes or others reuealeth the same. So came it to passe with Ornatus, although he was no way priuie to any such act, or had any probabilitie therof, yet he thought that Floretus countenance bewrayed his treecherie, and therefore he longed to haue some conference with him, to see if he could gather the truth, whereby he thought both to discharge himselfe of that suspect Artesia had of him, and also when she saue his innocencie and constancie, she might yeelde to loue him: purposing to leaue no meanes vnattempted to trie him: which he did the next time he spake with him, in this sort.

Early the next morning, Floretus not vnmindfull of his loue which kept him from his sleepe that night, neuer left till he had found Sylvian, and comming to her, with manifold submisse speeches,

eyes ſollicited his ſute: whom Syluian cunningly handled, ſtil putting him in hope, and yet making him no promiſe, which ſet him the more on fire, being ſo farre ouergone with affection, that hee purpoſely determined eyther to win her loue, or hazard his owne life, and to leaue no meanes vnattempted, were it never ſo dangerous, to procure his owne content. That the more vnwilling he ſaw Syluian, the more importunate he grew. Till at laſt Syluian ſayd as followeth. Floretus I know no reaſon you haue to be ſo importunate, when I ſee in you no token of fidelitie: but once hauing attained your purpoſe, you wil eſteeme me as lightly as eaſily won: beſides, I ſee not wherein you can performe any ſuch matter as you promiſe, for I beeing in a ſtrange countrey, haue nothing: and you for ought I ſee, as little: then by matching with you, I ſhal but bring my ſelfe to pouertie, and miſerie, and then your loue now ſo hotte, wil be as cold: and as I reiected, caſt off to biter miſerie. Floretus not ſuffering her to proceed any further, made this anſwer. Syluian do you not ſee Arbaſtus wealth, wil not y be ſufficient: the great poſſeſſions I now enioy by him, are of ſubſtance to maintaine you in all quiet, and yeeld you your hearts content. Arbaſtus wealth ſaid Syluian, that is Arteſias by right, then how can you poſſeſſe the ſame the liuing? Do but grant me loue, ſayd he: and I will quickly ſatiſfie you in that. I haue a meane to get all into mine owne hands: and therefore I beſeech you, let no ſuch matter trouble your mind, but be aſſured, that in enioying me, you ſhal haue al happineſſe and quiet, by my humble, dutifull, and conſtant loyaltie. Do but aſſure me of this (quoth Syluian) and you ſhall knowe my reſolution afterwards.

Arteſia entring the chamber, brake off their ſpeeches, whoſe preſence vered Floretus at the heart, beeing ſcarce able to ſpeake, by reaſon of his inward rancor: for indeed hee hated Arteſia, becauſe ſhe onely kept him from poſſeſſing his brothers liuing: the want whereof, kept him from attaining Syluians loue: therefore he reſolued by ſome meanes to worke her downefall, which within ſhort time he acquainted Syluian withall by this occaſion.

One

One day finding her alone in a secret place in the garden, after many speeches past betwixt them: whereby hee perceiued the chiefest things that hindred him, was his want of wealth, and after that Syluian had in some sort made him a grant (onely to trie him) he began to vtter his full intent in this sort. My deare Sylvian, I am so well perswaded of your vertue, and put such confidence in your trustinesse, that I will reueale to you the very depth and secrets of my heart, would you but sweare to keepe my counsell; for to purchase your content, I haue determined to put in practise a matter of secrecie, which concerneth my life to be reuealed.

Sylvian hearing that, thought it better to sweare a thousand oathes and breake them all, then by niceneſſe to indanger the life of Artesia, which she supposed he aymed at, promised him by many protestations, to keepe secret whatsoeuer he tolde her: whereupon Floretus vrged with hope to win her loue, and imboldned in mischief, cared not what he did to attain his will, said as followeth. Sylvian, you see Arbastus is dead, which was one stop that kept me from inioying great possessions, and my purpose is, so you will but vouchsafe to ayde me therein, to be ridde of Artesia; and then all that belongeth to her by her fathers death, shall bee yours to dispose of. Sylvians heart thirsted to heare his speeches, but determining to sift him to the full, said as followeth. Floretus I am sure you speake this onely to trie me, and so intrap me, and not of any intent you haue to performe the same, wherein you shall do me great wrong, and your selfe no good: for I cannot beleeue you beare the least thought to do it. By heauen quoth he, it is my full intent, and for that you may be assured thereof, it was I that slew Arbastus, howsoeuer the matter is imputed to Albinus, and purpose likewise to be rid of Artesia, onely for your sake.

Therefore make no doubt of my resolution: for I am absolutely purposed to do it. (O thought Sylvian) rather shalt thou see my blood, then spill one drop of hers. Why Floretus would you haue me do any thing therein? You onely may do it (quoth he) with more safetie then any other, and the manner how is this.

Within some mile from this Castle, Arbastus hath a banquetting house in his Parke, where oftentimes hee woulde for his recreation lye, whither I wil perswade Artesia to goe for a season to take the aire, and to recreate her senices dulled with greefe: and none but you to kepe her company, and some two seruants whose trustinesse I am assured of. This done, I wil get a drinke to be made, the force whereof, shall expell life, and yet by no meanes nor any cunning or skil be found out, which you shall thinke most conuenient giue vnto her: and being once dead who will make any enquirie, but that she died of a naturall sicknesse: and so this matter may without the least suspition be effed: and then you shall be mistresse both of her heritage and my selfe. Syluian said, when shall this be put in practise? Within these two daies at the farthest said he: in the meane time frequent you Artesias company, in such familiar sort as heretofore you haue done, and my selfe will vse her with no lesse kindnesse. Many other speeches being past betwixt them at that time, they parted.

CHAP. VII.

How *Ornatus* told *Artesia* of *Floretus* intent, and vpon what occasion he discouered himselfe.

FLoretus being by himselfe, began to consider howe rashly he had committed his secrets to Syluian, entring into these meditations; Doth Syluian thinke that my pollicie exceedeth not her shallow capacitie: poore simple Straunger, she hath vndertaken a matter of great importaunce for me, that meane nothing lesse then good wil to her, she for my loue hath promised to poyson Artesia, and is likely that once done, to take of the same sawce, for loued she me neuer so well, I will not trust her with my life; but peraduenture she hateth me, and will reueale my drift to Artesia. No Floretus thou art

art deceiued, she is so farre in loue that she doteth, and would I am sure do any thing at my request. What a world is this what villanie can be intended, that some either for fauour or reward, will not execute? If I should trust her that is so easily wonne to do such a hainous deed, might I not be accounted madde? yes, and therfore I will not trust her: but Artesia being once dispatcht, she shall follow next. Ornatus on the contrary part, was glad that he had felt the depth of Floretus counsell, thinking likewise that he was so farre in loue with him (taking him for a woman,) that for his sake he sought Artesias death: which was the onely meanes to helpe him attaine her loue, which he likewise determined to giue her knowledge of, and discouer himselfe, hoping that when she sawe his innocencie, his faithfull loue, and how by his meanes her life was preserued, she would yeld him due guerdon for his good will. Whilst he was in the depth of those cogitations, he espied Artesia enter the garden, and taking his Lute, founde her seated vpon a flowrie banke, vnder the shade of a mirtle tree, and perceiuing that she was somewhat heauily inclinde, he satte downe by her, and with his sweete melodie, brought her a sleepe, when she had slept a good while, being exceedingly affrighted with a dreame, he started vp, looking earnestly vpon Sylvian, saying: I pray thee Sylvian do not poyson me. Sylvian seing her so affrighted, was exceedingly amazed, and she her selfe not yet fully recouered, seemed to be afraid of him, till at last Sylvian said. I beseech you what is it that affrighteth you? O Sylvian said she, I dempt thou wouldst haue murthered me. Heauens forbid quoth he, that I should attempt so hainous a deede: But would it your vouchsafe to heare my tragicke report, you should be rid of that doubt, though Sylvian is much tempted to do it, a deed: who esteeme your life more deare then mine owne, and would rather with my owne hands teare out my woefull heart, then thinke the least thought to wrong you. But because I haue so fit occasion, and I hope your patience will permit me, I will reueale a most monstrous and hainous intended villanie. The other day I remember you were exceedingly offended with me for killing Or-

natus, for that you supposed him to be an actor in Arbastus death, but both he and Allinus are innocent, and farre from any such thought, for your vnckle Floretus was his murtherer, which hee tolde me himselfe: he hath beene oftentimes importunate to win my loue (which another possesseth) but I suspecting as much as I now find to be true, held him of with this delay, that he had not wealth to maintaine me. Which when I had often alleaged, hee tolde me all that belonged to Arbastus was his: then I demaunded how that could be, since you were liuing? Quoth hee, sweare but to be secret, and I will tell you how. With that vpon my protestations, he tolde me that he had murdred Arbastus, and ment to poison you; perswading me to consent thereto, for that hee said, I onely could do it: with that (I not purposing to do it, but to preserue you) promised him my vttermost assistance, which he tolde me should be done, in this manner. I will (quoth he) perswade Artesia to forsake this Castle, and to soiourne some few dayes in a house Arbastus hath in his Parke, where none but you & two other seruãts, whose secrecie I nothing doubt, shal keep her company, where I will giue you such a potion, as shall end her life, and yet by no means be perceiued, neither cã there be any doubt therof; for that I and none else am left of her kindred, to search the truth. This is the summe of that he tolde me. Artesia hearing her words, sate like one without sence a good space, being so farre ouercome with greefe and feare, that she could not speake a word, but at the last she burst forth into these lamentations. Ay me, vnkinde, and most vnnaturall Vnckle, canst thou speake me so faire and intend me so much harm? Who would haue thought so foule impietie, had bin shrowded vnder so faire pretext? Couldst thou be so vnnaturall, as to murther thy owne most naturall louing and dear brother, and not contented with his tragedie, to seek my vntimely death? What frenzie or follie doth possesse thy brest, that I esteemed replete with vertue? How canst thou suffer so impious and kaynous a thought to sink in thy brest, much lesse to act such a notorious outrage against him ẽ loued thee as his life, & her that honoreth thee as her friend? O Sylvian, may I credit thy words, and not rather accuse thee, and excuse him? May I thinke him so

simple,

simple, to trust thee with his secrets? no: I feare mee this is some pollicie inuented by thee to some bad end. Yet I pray thee pardon me: for what canst thou get by telling me so vnlesse it were so? or not rather haue kept his counsell, & then thou mightest haue bin my heire. And pardon I ask of thee good Ornatus, though thou art absent, for that I accused thee as accessarie to my fathers death, when thou art innocent. With that a flood of teares stopt ỳ passage of her speech, & Syluian said. Artesia, yet vouchsafe to heare my counsel, which shal preuent al these imminent euils. You may peradẽnture make some doubt of the truth, of that which I haue spoken: but I take heauen to record, no word is false: for I regard your good aboue all things, and your quiet aboue mine own content: for should you dye, I could not liue: for by you I draw my breath. I dined into Floretus counsails, not to ayd him, but to preuent them; for that I knew Ornatus was no way guiltie of any such treason, but would haue ventured his owne life, to haue preserued your fathers, whom he both loued & honored as himselfe. Of whom I could haue told you more, but that fearing to offend you, & partly seeing how vehemẽtly you accused him, I durst not, whose loue is loyall, & theron I will pawn my life. Syluian (quoth Artesia) thou tellest me things of wonder, but especially ỳ thou art so priuie to Ornatus thoughts, and ỳ thou darest so boldly affirme he loueth me, whẽ thou maiest be deceiued. Most vertuous Artesia (quoth he) were you but so priuie to ỳ thoughts of his hart as I am, you wold say as much as I, & beleeue all ỳ I tel you: and to put you in assurance of what I know, I giue you knowledge ỳ I am Ornatus, ỳ in this disguise haue sought to attain your loue: for which boldnesse, I most humbly beseech you to pardon mee. With ỳ a ruddie blush spred it self in Artesias cheeks, before pale with feare, being so much ashamed ỳ he had bin so priuie to many of her actions, that she could not tell with what countenance to behold him. Then Ornatus said, I beseech you pitie my torment, which hath vrged me to this boldnesse, being frustrated of other means to enioy your presence: my meaning being no other then vertuous, but resting at your mercifull disposition. Desiring you to put assured confidence in me, for preuenting Floretus intent, which you need not doubt of, for to my greefe I know it to be too true.

Artesia

Artesia marueiled exceedingly at the straungenesse of these newes, but most of all admired Ornatus loue, which she could not tell how to reiect, for that she both well knewe, he deserued loue, and the necessitie of time was such, that her safetie rested in his secrecie: yet being not willing at that instant to yeild without further assault, said: I know not by what name to call you, when neither I know whether you are Syluian or Ornatus, but which of both, your words beare great shewe of true friendship, which I feare me is not grounded in your heart, neither do I greatly care: for since my vncle seeketh my life, let him take it, for I am weary thereof.

Let not your gentle heart (quoth Ornatus) make any doubt that I am Ornatus, though my counterfait disguise doth shewe me other, but either vouchsafe me loue, or giue me leaue to die for Artesia, for that potion that should dispatch you, shall ende my life: my life is bound to your commaund, and all my felicitie resteth in your fauour. Which vnlesse you graunt, my life without it, is same will be but short, and the time I haue to liue, an endlesse labyrinth of sorrow.

Adellena by occasion entered the garden, and found Artesia weeping, and Sylnian in a heauie dumpe, readie to torment himselfe to see her sorrow, but Artesia espying her, said: Adellena, dooest thou loue Ornatus, so much as that thou wouldest hazard life and estate to do him good? for that I know him to be a most vertuous & honest Gentleman. I but wouldest thou (quoth she) keepe my counsell if I reueale a secret of importance to you concerning Ornatus? And vpon Adellenas promise, she said: do you know Ornatus if you see him? behold there he is. Adellena was at the first halfe amazed at her speeches: but at last the perfectly remembred that was he indeed: reioycing most exceedingly to see him there, especially with Artesia. Then they declared vnto her all that had happened, and of Florettes deceit, desiring her to be secret, and make no shewe of discontent, least he should suspect Sylnian had bewrayed his secrets, and after some other speeches past, they went in together.

CHAP.

Ornatus and Artesia.

CHAP. VIII.

How *Artesia* departed to the Lodge with *Sylvian*, and from thence secretly departed to *Adellenas* house, and how *Ornatus* taken to be *Sylvian*, was by *Floretus* accusation, and *Artesias* want, banished.

Tel so out the next day, that the King with diuers of his company, amongst whom was his only sonne and heire Lenon, being wearied with trauell, arriued at Arbastus house, thinking to haue founde him there, but the King hearing of his suddaine death, was exceedingly sorie, perswading himselfe as all men else did, that he was slaine by some of Allinus house; which made him make small tariance there, but departed to his Pallace. Now it fortuned that Lenon beheld Artesias beautie, and was with the first view thereof, exceedingly bewitched, that after he was gone, he could by no meanes forget her; but determined ere long, to returne to see if he could attaine her loue. Now the time was come that Floretus had appointed to set abroach his villany, and (according as Ornatus had before told Artesia) he came to her, perswading her for a season to lie in the Countrey, which she as forearmed consented vnto, and so the next morning, she with Sylvian, Floretus, and diuers others, departed: at night Floretus returning, and leauing with her according as he had promised Sylvian, and onely two seruants that were to prouide them necessaries, but knew no part of the conspiracie. When Ornatus and Artesia were alone together, for that she was vndoubtedly assured of his loue, faith and stedfastie, she vsed these comfortable speeches to him. Ornatus, whereas allwaies before this time too vnkindly I haue reputed you as foe, I now craue pardon, being sure that my heart hath done you so much wrong, which now I will requite with kindnesse. I con-

selfe it was strange to me to entertaine loue, but now I willingly yeeld my selfe to be her subiect, and your true and faithfull friend: committing my life to your custodie, and my loue and selfe to be yours to dispose of. Ornatus hearing her speeches, was rauished with a heauen of ioy, with a gentle and kind behauiour, scalding her in his armes, and imprinting a sweete kisse vpon her resiate lippes, he said. Neuer was poore wretch exalted to more happinesse then I am, by being inriched with this inestimable treasure of your loue. O how rich a reward haue I now reapt for my cares, and what glorie, ioy or wealth, can be compared to the riches of your loue? O heauenly Artesia, how fortunate haue you made Ornatus? how haue you blest Ornatus? how full of ioy is Ornatus, by your sweete consent? was euer any so vnworthie, so exalted? for this kindnesse and loue, I will performe more then my tongue can vtter, and be more faithfull then your heart can wish. Then began they to imbrace each other, and to surfet themselues in the sollaces, true loue yeeldeth. He sometimes lending her a kisse, and she with interest paying two for one: for one sweet loke two, and so many imbracings as are not to be explicated: their hands and hearts ioyned in such firme bandes of true affection, as is not to be dissolued: and surfetting with such exceeding content, as is impossible to be described. These stormes of loue somewhat mittigated, they began to consult of their daungerous estate, and to deuise how to preuent the intended mischiefe. In this place they continued some two dayes in exceeding content, still expecting to heare from Florerus: who the third day fearing to trust any with a matter of such waight, came himselfe to bring the potion, (yet in shewe of kindnesse to visite Artesia) deliuering the same to Syluian, willing her the next night to giue it her, which she promised him faithfully to accomplish.

When he was gone, Artesia came to Ornatus, to knowe what newes Florerus brought, who tolde her all, and shewed her the poyson in a glasse, which he had charged should be giuen to her the next day. With that Artesia beganne to wayle and exclaime against her Vnckle, in most extreame sort. But Or-

natus

natus intreated her to cease such vaine griefe, which could not hurt him, but her selfe, promising her to prevent the same, if she would follow his counsell; which she willingly yelded vnto. Then quoth he, let vs presently depart hence to Adellenaes house, which you know is not farre off, who you know is agreed with vs alreadie, where I will leaue you, and returne. Which said, while the seruants were absent vpon some speciall occasion, they departed with little labour, arriuing at Adellenas house, who was readie to receiue them, and after many farwels, Ornatus returned backe to the Lodge. And when it was supper time, the seruants brought vp meate, but Ornatus tolde them that Artesia was scarce well, and therefore they would not sup that night. And being alone by himselfe, he studied what excuse to make for Artesias absence, when Floretus should come, spending that night in much care, and many vnquiet cogitations, which toke away his sleepe.

Floretus was no sooner returned from the Lodge, but hee met Lenon, who of purpose came to meete Artesia, whom Floretus kindly saluted: marueling much wherefore he came: to ease which doubt, Lenon said.

My friend Floretus I come to visite the faire Artesia, to whose beawtie I am inthralled, not as regarding her wealth, but her sweete loue, of whome you onely haue the gouernment: therefore I pray befriend me so much, that I may come to speech with her. Floretus was so exceedingly amazed to heare his speeches, that he could not tell what answere to make, nor how to excuse her absence. Lenon seeing him in such a studie, continued his speeches, saying: Floretus be not vnwilling I should match with Artesia for that shall no way hinder your preferment, who think peraduenture the longer she liueth vnmarried, the more wealth you shall get by her, but to rid you of that doubt, be but a meanes to win her consent, and I vowe by heauen, I will not take one peniworth of Arbastus substance from you, but freely giue it you all. For it is not her possessions I regard, but her loue, therefore I pray resolue me of your minde herein.

My Lord replied he, your offer is so bountifull, besides my dutie urging me, I am readie to performe your will to the vttermost of my power. I thanke you good Floretus quoth Lenon, then I pray thee bring me to her, for my loue is impatient of delay. My Lord replied he, that can I not do instantly, for Artesia some two daies past, with the straunge damesell Sylvian, departed hence, and are now at the Lodge: whither if you please to take such entertainment as this place yeldeth, we will betly goe to morrow morning. Agreed quoth Lenon, I will accept your proffer. When the time of rest was come, Floretus being alone by himselfe, entered into these cogitations. What inconueniences hast thou runne into Floretus? thou hast hyred one to murther Artesia, in hope to get her wealth, and made Sylvian acquainted with thy counsell, which wealth thou maist now attaine by preseruing her life: and besides, winning her to loue Lenon, thou shalt finde him thy faithful friend for euer. What wert thou then best to do? if thou shouldest murther her, he would make enquirie of her death, and so thou be vndone: If not, then wil Sylvian be displeased, and so bewray thy drift: that the mischiefes thou by folly hast runne into, are so intricate, that thou knowest not which way to shunne them. Were it not better to saue her life, and winne her loue for Lenon, then to poyson her, and so to die my selfe? If I saue her life, Sylvian will be discontented: what of that: then let Sylvian smart for it, for if she wil not be contented with that I shall do, she shall neuer liue to bewray my counsell. And therefore wil I first trie her, and finding any suspition thereof, I wil stabbe her my selfe, whose death I may easilier answere then Artesias. Early the next morning, Lenon and he rode to the Lodge, where no sooner arriued, but he met with Sylvian, to whom he said: How now Sylvian, I haue newes of importance to bewray to thee, Lenon whom thou here beholdest, is sonne to the King, who is deeply in loue with Artesia, and hath giuen me assurance of all Arbastus liuings, if I can win Artesia to match with him, now I thinke it good to deferre our purpose as concerning her death, vntil we haue made triall whether she

wil

will loue him or no. Which if we can effect, we shall be quit of so cruel a deed, enioy her heritage, and haue an assured friend of Lenon whilest we liue: therefore let me know your opinion herein. Sylvian was exceedingly amazed to heare his speaches, thinking that if he did tel him where Artesia was, she should be wrested from his possession, and so himselfe disappointed of her loue: and on the other side, he thought what mischiefe would arise if he should say he had already giuen her the poyson, yet his loue ouermastring the feare of any daunger, made him say, All this I like: but Floretus, it is now too late, for I haue caused Artesia to drink the poyson you deliuered me, and she is dead, which was of such force, that all her bodie purpled into blisters and swellings, which because I knew would bewray what we had done, I toke her bodie and conueyed it into a deepe pit, where it is impossible to be found. Floretus now fearing to haue his treason bewrayed, thought to stabbe Sylvian, and so to be rid of them both, that in a monstrous rage he drew his dagger, and vnawares stroke Sylvian in the left arme, who feeling the smart, with violence more then Floretus expected, lept to him, and in spite of his vttermost strength, wrong the dagger out of his hands, and with the same wounded him in three places, and had not Lenon lept betwixt them, Floretus had bene slaine. With that Lenon parting them, demaunded what the matter was. Floretus thinking rather to accuse, then be accused himselfe, and terrified with affright, saide that wicked woman hath murthered Artesia. Sylvian made no answer vntil Lenon laid hold on her, demanding where Artesia was, she answering, by the intisement of that wicked Floretus, I gaue her a drinke that vnknowing to me hath poysoned her. O wicked creature said Lenon, thou hast condemned thy selfe, and therfore worthily shall thy accursed life make satisfaction for her death. With that he began to drawe his sword, but Ornatus thinking it now no time to dally, lest he might by them be murthered, caught holde on Lenons sword, hauing such aduantage, that he easily wrong it from him, and said; Worthie Lenon be aduised, do not then seeke to spil my innocent blood, without fur-

ther cõſideration, leaſt for the ſame thou loſe thine owne. Thinkeſt thou I am as faultie and guiltie as Floretus is: be aſſured I am not. But if thou loueſt Juſtice, laie hands on that Traytor, for he not I, is culpable of ſheading her innocent blood. By this time Lenons ſeruants perceiuing their contention, came running in with their ſwordes drawne, by their Lordes commandement, apprehending Floretus, and afterwards ſeeking by violence to take Syluian, but he ſtanding in his owne defence, reſiſted them, alledging innocencie, til Lenon vowed and proteſted, if he were not acceſſary thereto, he ſhould haue no other then iuſtice, and that his cauſe ſhould be heard before the King. Ornatus thought it better to yelde by faire meanes, rather then by compulſion, and eſteeming it leſſe griefe to be made a priſoner, then to bewray where Arteſia was, and ſo haue her taken from him, yelded: both of them being conueyed to the Pallace, and for that night committed to ſeuerall priſons. Floretus conſcience ſo deeply accuſed him of villany, that he continued curſing and exclaiming againſt his hard fortune, with bitter bannings raging againſt himſelfe for truſting Syluian, ſeeming with extreame feare of death deſperate.

Ornatus on the other ſide, tooke that trouble patiently, as endured for Arteſias ſake, fearing nothing, for that he knew himſelfe innocent, and could eaſily acquite himſelfe of ſuch accuſation, purpoſing rather to hazard the worſt, then bewray what he was: which to conceale, was his greateſt care. The next day they were brought before the Prince, where Floretus vpon Syluians accuſation confeſt the truth, both concerning Arteſia, and how he ſlue Arbaſtus, for which he was adiudged to die within two daies. And quoth he to Syluian, for that thou art a ſtranger, and by his counſel rather then of thine owne inclination, wert drawne vnwittingly to doo that deed, I will pardon thy life, but adiudge thee to be baniſhed this Countrey: and quoth he, becauſe I feare that ſome will ſeeke thy life, thou ſhalt preſently be conueyed hence. Which doome ſhall ſtand irreuocable. Then gaue he commandement, he ſhould be conueyed to the hauen preſently,

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committing her to the custodie of certaine rude Powres. Who not staying to heare what answere she would make (whereof powre Ornatus was not readily prouided of, in that extremitie) immediately carried her away: to whom Ornatus would haue tolde the truth of all, but he spake to them that vnderstood him not, who with spéede executing their soueraignes commaund, rudely haled him abord, and hoysing saile, neuer rested vntill they arriued neare the coast of Natolia, where they were commaunded to leaue her.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

Of the ſorrow *Arteſia* tooke for *Ornatus* baniſhment, and of the ſeuerall aduentures befell him in *Natolia*.

Arteſia remaining in Adellenas houſe, maruelled ſhe heard not from Ornatus according to his promiſe, which draue her into ſome doubt of his ſafetie, that comming to Adellena, ſhe deſired her to haſte to the Lodge, to intreate him to come to her, for that by her hearts miſdoubt ſhe ſuſpected ſome heauie newes. Adellena immediately haſted thither, finding the ſeruants in great ſorrow, whom ſhe aſked for Syluian. Ay me, quoth one of them, by this time ſhe is paſt ſpeaking withall: for ſuch heauie newes is befallen ſince your departure, as greeueth me to vtter, yet notwithſtanding he told her all that was happened.

Adellena breaking no delay which in thoſe affaires was daungerous, ſtood not to imunitate of thoſe greefes, and how contrarily euery thing fell out, but with all haſte returned to Arteſia, who eſpying her comming, thought her countenance bewrayed ſome vnwelcome accident; haſtily enquiring how Ornatus did. Adellena for want of breath could not ſpeake a good ſpace, but at the laſt ſhe ſaid. Arteſia, tedious lament is not now to be vſed, but ſpeedie counſell how to ſaue Ornatus, for he is carried before the King, is accuſed by Floretus to haue murthered you, for comming to the Lodge with Lenon the Kings ſonne, who pretendeth great loue to you, and not finding you, Ornatus tolde Floretus he had giuen you the poyſon, whereupon Floretus would haue ſlaine him, but Ornatus taking his dagger from him, had done the like to him, had not Lenon kept betwixt them. Then Floretus accuſed him for your death, and he Floretus: and both were yeſterday carried before the King.

Rhlas

Ornatus and Artesia.

Alas poore Ornatus, said Artesia, what miserie is befallen thee for my sake? how art thou rewarded for preseruing my life? God Adellena, counsel me what is to be done: Ornatus being amongst them a reputed straunger, hauing no friend to pleade for him, and peraduenture ouerswayed by Floretus periurie, may haue his life indaungered, and the rather for that he is taken to be a Natolian. Therefore Adellena, if thou louest him or me, wilt saue both his and my life, and discharge him of that false accusation, runne to the Court, and finding out Lenon, tell him of my safetie, and request him for my sake to pittie poore Syluian. Adellena according to her commaundement, mounted a horse, and with great spæde, by that time it was night, attained the Court, and finding out Lenon, vttered these spæches. Most worthie Lenon, vouchsafe to heare me speake: The faire Artesia whome you suppose dead, is aliue and in safetie at my house, who hath sent me vnto you in the behalfe of Syluian, fearing some wrong might be done to her, as inspected to be her death, when she onely hath preserued her life.

Lenon was so amazed at her spæches, that he could not tel what to say, being exceedingly greeued for Syluian, but at length tolde her what his father had done: which appalled her senses with deadly feare. Lenon, notwithstanding it somewhat greeued him for Syluian, yet his heart was glad to heare of Artesias safetie, and therefore he determined to goe with Adellena to visite her; which likewise he performed, and entering where she was, making exceeding lamentation, he said.

I beseech you greeue not faire Damosell for Syluian, for no harme is done to her, onely my father vppon her owne confession and Floretus accusation, hath banished her, to her owne Countrey.

Artesia hearing his spæches, with verie greefe fell into a deadly traunce, both Lenon and Adellena hauing much adoo to bring her life againe. And being conueyed to her bed, when her senses were come to their perfect vse, and Lenon standing by her, whose sight was most greeuous to her, she turned her

head from his ſight, ſheading ſuch aboundance of teares, that ſhe bedewed the place where ſhe late. Lenon perceiuing that ſhe was diſpleaſed with his preſence, withdrew himſelfe, giuing Adellena this charge. Adellena, ſince Arteſia is in thy cuſtodie, I charge thee let her not depart hence, vntill thou heareſt of me againe, for if thou doeſt, thou ſhalt anſwere the ſame: but if thou wilt ſtand my friend, and in my behalfe intreat her fauour, I will proue ſo grateful a friend, as thou ſhalt account thy labour well imployed.

He was no ſooner gone, but Arteſia vttered theſe lamentations; Moſt accurſed wretch that I am, to bee thus ſeparated from my deare Loue, whoſe curteous minde is the fountaine of all vertue: how vnfortunate am I made by my fathers death, and my Vnckles crueltie, but eſpecially by his loſſe, that is vniuſtly baniſhed into a ſtraunge Countrey, where he proue true and loyall Gentleman, neuer ſet foote? how vnhappie was he made, when he firſt beganne his loue? but now moſt miſerable, by ſeeking to preſerue my life, hath caſt away his owne; and fearing to be diſappointed of my loue, hath quite diſſeuered himſelfe from my ſight, to hazard his perſon by ſea and land. Is it poſſible that he ſhould euer returne, being ſo farre conueyed from his natiue ſoyle, and left to the mercies of ſtrange people, that will be readie to deſtroy his guiltleſſe life. No I feare me, neuer ſhall I be ſo happie as beholde him, and though I do not, yet ſhall my loue to him remaine immoueable. Therefore now will I arme my ſelfe to endure all perilles, to liue in care, and continuall lament, for want of beloued Ornatus, whoſe heart I knowe is replete with ſorrowe, and peraduenture miſdoubteth my loyaltie, hauing bene ſo vnkinde to him before: and knowing Lenons affection, may ſuppoſe his dignitie might alter my conſtancie. But ſooner ſhall Ornatus heare of my death, then that I haue altered my loue, or yelded his right to an other, were he the greateſt Potentate in the worlde. Which ſaide, another flood of brinithe teares ouerflowed her eyes, and her paſſage of ſpeeche was ſtopt by heart-pearcing ſighings,

sighings, which in confused multitudes issued with her swéte breath, neuer ceasing her laments, but still bewayling her true Loues absence, that it pearced Adellenaes heart with suche sorrowe, that she wept as fast as Artesia, both being so much greeued, that they seemed to striue howe to exceede one another in laments. In which sorrowfull estate, Artesia remained so long, that she waxed extreame sicke; and grewe to that extremitie, that Adellena feared her death.

Lenon likewise being come to the Court, gatte pardon of his Father for Florens death, but notwithstanding he remained in prison all the dayes of his life. Lenon likewise hearing of Artesias sickenesse, refrained from visiting her, onely he would oftentimes repaire to Adellenaes house, to enquire howe she did.

Ornatus being left in the Countrey of Natolia, toke his misfortunes in such heauie sort, that had not his hope to see Artesia againe withheld him, he had offered himselfe some outrage, for a season giuing himselfe to forlorne and carelesse desperation, neyther regarding which way to prouide for his safetie, nor otherwise respecting what daunger hee might runne into in that straunge Countrey, for the Hoyes had landed him in a waste and desolate Coaste of the Countrey.

Thus careleſſe did he continue a whole night and a day, not so muche as seeking foode to preserue him from famine: but in the ende, hunger constrained him to seeke succour, but when his stomacke serued him, hee could finde no meate, that with the extremitie thereof, calling to remembrance his estate, he vttered these plaints.

Thus contrary is Nature to her subiects, sometimes hoysing them to the toppe of all felicitie, and then with violence trumbling them downe headlong into the depth of extreame miserie.

Was euer more fortunate, and suddenly miserable then I am? Coulde euer any man whatsoeuer, attaine more heauenly felicitie and happinesse then I did by being possest of Artesia?

and now againe more accurſt being thus far abſented from her: and banished my native ſoyle into a ſtraunge Countrey, readie to be famiſhed or deuoured by wild beaſts, or that which is worſt, neuer likely to ſee Arteſia againe. How could any man containe himſelfe from deſperateneſſe, being ſo miſerable as I am? How can I withhold my hands from murthering my ſelfe, when by doing it, I ſhould be ridde out of a wretched life? What ſhould I do, which way ſhould I goe? Here I am in a deſolate and vnfrequented place, where no humane creatures inhabit, but wilde beaſtes, without foode, without weapons, in womans apparrell, and without hope of comfort. Shall I ſtaie here, then ſhall I be famiſhed; ſhall I leaue this place and trauell further, then I goe farther from my beloued, and meeting with ſome rauenous beaſt, may be deuoured. Now being hungrie I want foode, and here is none, vnleſſe I will eate the earth, traues of trees, or rootes of the graſſe. Well I will ſeeke my fortune, be it good or ill: and in this deſperate moode he trauelled on, and by good fortune founde a Tree laden with ereeding, pleaſaunt, and goodly frute, with which he ſtenched his hunger: not farre from which place, he toke vp his nights lodging.

Early the next morning he aroſe, firſt filling his belly, and then his lappe with that pleaſaunt frute, the taſte whereof, was lyke pleaſaunt wine, that being drunke in abundance, will make the head light: which made Ornatus heart merie, that he trauelled on apace, but Fortune not contented with the miſerie he endured alreadie, ſent him an other affliction: he entered into a place like a Forreſt, beſet with Trees of huge proportion, ſcattered here and there, where he met with a wild and fierce Boore, that haunted thoſe Deſarts, who eſpying Ornatus, with a terrible groyning briſtled himſelfe comming towardes him, Ornatus being now driuen to his vttermoſt ſhiftes, beganne to runne with all his force from the beaſt, but he making the more ſpeede had almoſt ouertaken him, when one of the Apples Ornatus carried about him fell downe, and the Boore eſpying the ſame, ſtaied his haſte to take it vp, whereby

Ornatus

Ornatus had gotten some little ground of him, and seeing him so much affect the fruite, cast downe another Apple, after which the Beare ranne, with greedinesse devouring the same. Ornatus was glad of this peare shift, and still cast downe one Apple and then another, that in the ende he had almost throwne away all, and notwithstanding that, feared to be destroyed, but the Beare feeling his belly full, and his hunger staunch, left off his egar pursute and followed him more carelesly, whom he still feede with Apples, so long as his store lasted, that in the ende the Beare being drunke with the pleasaunt frute, began to reele and stagger, and lying downe cast a sleepe, which Ornatus seeing, having no other then a knife about him, with the same approached the Beare, and without feare, violently thrust the same so deepe into the Beares brisled side, that it pearced his heart, and he after some strugling died.

Ornatus then helde vp his hands to heauen for ioy, exceedingly applauding this his fortunate and vnexpected escape; which he toke as a fortunate presage of good successe. But yet before he could determine what to doe, Fortune once againe shewed her mutabilitie, for when Ornatus had parted the Beares head from his huge bodie, and with the same was readie to depart, there past by as it seemed, a knight gallantly mounted, in greene armor, who espying a woman bearing the Beares head, drew towards her, and said: Woman where hast thou that Beares head? I pray thee deliuer it me. Ornatus made this answere. Sir I need not doe either, vnlesse I know more cause then as yet I doe. The knight hearing that short answere, alighted, and saide; I will shewe no other reason but that I will haue it: with that he beganne to striue for the same, but Ornatus hauing more minde to his sword then to keepe the Beares head, suddenly caught holde on the Natolians sword, and drew the same out, which when he had gotten, he said: Disloyall and discourteous knight, now wil I keepe the Beares head in despight of thee, with that he thrust at him, and contrary to his thought, wounded him so deepe that he left him for dead, wishing that he had not done that deed, but not

knowing how diſcurteouſly he would haue vſed him, let paſſe all further remorſe, and caſting off his womans apparrell, put on the Knights apparrell and Armour, mounted the ſtæde, and with the Boares head, roade backe the ſame way he ſawe the Knight come, and within a little ſpace, found a beaten way that conducted him to a goodly Towne, whoſe Turret tops he ſawe long before he came to the ſame: then began he to ſtudie what to do, ſometimes thinking it beſt not to enter into the Towne, from whence it was likely the Knight he ſlewe came, and ſo he being taken for him might be knowne, and ſo afterwards indaungered for his death. For peraduenture the Knight might be of good eſtimation, and of purpoſe ſent to ſlay the Boare, and if it ſhould be knowne that he had ſlain him, his friends would for the ſame, and the rather for that he was a ſtraunger, proſecute ſharpe reuenge againſt him. Whilſt he was in theſe meditations, he came neare the Towne, not fully reſolued what to do, where he was ſone eſpied of ſom of the people, who ſeing the Boares head, came running towards him, making exceeding ioy: which when he ſaw, he thought it too late to turne backe, but that he muſt go on and hazard the woſt: and being entred the Towne, a number of the Inhabitants flocked about him, ſome with garlandes, ſome with praiſes, and all with ioy, vttering theſe ſpeeches. Welcome home moſt braue Alprinus.

Ornatus then perfectly knew that the Knights name was Alprinus, and went of purpoſe to ſlea the Boare, whome they tooke him to be, and that he muſt of neceſſitie be knowne; which braue him into exceeding care what excuſe to make, to auoide the daunger of death. Then preſently he beheld a troupe of bewtifull Damoſels, with the ſoundes of ſweete Muſicke comming towards him, (amongſt whom, one as chiefe and more bewtiful then the reſt, was crowned with a wreathe of flowers, bearing another in her hand) who all at once applauded his victorie, dancing before him, vntill he came into the middeſt of the Towne, where ſatte the chiefe Magiſtrates, where the Damoſell that was crowned, thus ſpake to him.

Syr Alprinus, your conquest hath released these Inhabitants of care, extolled thy fame, preserued thy life, and wonne me for thy Loue. You haue well performed the taske you vndertooke, and according to your desert, I come to Crowne you with these flowers, and to yeilde my selfe as yours for euer.

Ornatus hearing her speeches, thought to trie the end of this aduenture, which could be no worse then death, which of force he must now hazard, alighted, laying downe the Bores head vpon a Table that stood before the Auncients, with humble and comely behauiour kissing the Damosells hande, who set the Wreathe of Flowers vppon his head, and taking him by the hand, brought him before the Auncients, one of whome stode vp and said; Worthie Gentleman, whereas before thou wert by vs adiudged to die as worthie thereof, for this thy valiant deed, we freely pardon thee, and acquite thee from all trespasses that thou hast committed against any whomsoeuer vntil this present houre.

And taking the Damosell by the hand saide, Lucida, according to thy desire and his desert, I yeilde thee vp to be his wife. And Gentleman quoth he, take her as thine owne, as freely as she was by birth adopted mine: and after my death, be thou inheritour of my land.

To all this Ornatus gaue a reuerent consent, and the night now approaching, he with Lucida went to her fathers house, where was a great feast prepared, from which Ornatus excused himselfe in this sort. When he was entred the house, being still Armed, onely lifting vp his Beuer, he toke Lucida by the hand, and withdrawing her aside, said.

Lucida, I nowe finde your loue to bee infallible, and your constancie to excell all womens that I haue knowne: and that Alprinus is so farre indebted vnto you, as that he shall neuer (might hee liue a thousande yeares) bee able to recompence this inestimable fauour of your loue, which hath preserued my vnworthie life from destruction.

But notwithstanding your Loue Alprinus, his debt is

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ſo great as can no way bee gratified, I requeſt one further fa-uour at your hands, wherein my chiefeſt felicitie dependeth: yea my life, your loue, and perpetuall good, which I feare to vtter, leſt you ſhould miſconceiue the ſame, there being no other thing to hinder the content Alprinus ſeeketh, but onely your fauourable conſent, to baniſh all miſtruſt of my faith.

Lucida marueiled at his ſpeeches, indeed louing him ſo well, that ſhe would haue ſpilt her owne blood for his ſake, ſaying: Alprinus what neede you make doubt of my conſent to any thing whatſoeuer it be for your ſake? knowe you not how faithfull I haue continued, though you ſlue my onely brother? and that I eſteemed your loue farre dearer then his life, and when you ſhould haue died for that deed, obtained this at my fathers and the reſt of the auncients handes, that ſlaying the Beaſt that deſtroyed many people, you ſhould ſaue your owne life, and winne me as your Loue. And notwithſtanding all this, do you make a queſtion whether I will yeelde conſent to any thing that ſhall be for your good? O Alprinus, if your loue were ſo conſtant as mine, if you intended to continue my loue for euer, if your heart felt ſo deepe a ſting of loue as mine, you would not make ſuch a doubt of my loyaltie, of my trueth, true loue and conſtancie. For you knowe whatſoeuer you ſhould aſke, I will graunt: whatſoeuer you ſhould requeſt, I will performe: and wherein ſoeuer a Louer may ſhewe infallible tokens of her truth, I will do as much as any: but ſince you will not beleeue me without an oathe, I ſweare by my loue, my vnſpotted virginitie, and by all the good I wiſh my heart, I will conſent, agree, performe, or do any thing: not be offended with any thing, be the newes neuer ſo vnwelcome, ſo it be for Alprinus good: nor leaue any thing vnperformed you ſhall require.

Ornatus hearing with what conſtancie her ſpeeches proceeded from her, and how greeuouſly ſhe conceiued it, that any doubt ſhould bee made of her loyaltie, thought moſte certainly that he might put his life into her hands, and therefore hauing

alreadie studied a deuice, said. It ill agreeth with my nature to dissemble: and hardly could I haue borne drawne thereto, but that desire to preserue loue, drewe me thereto: for know most worthy Lucida, that I am not Alprinus, but one that for his sake, hath vndertaken this: The truth whereof, if you will heare with patience, I will declare.

Yesterday, I trauailed through the Forrest, or desart, where I met Alprinus, sore wounded, and flying from the Beare, that pursued him with celeritie: which when I beheld, to relieue him from death, I set vpon the Beare, and by good fortune slew him: which when he beheld, he declared to me, the cause of his coming: which when I heard, pitying his estate, I bid him take the Beares head, and withall, hope him to mount his steed, but his wounds would not suffer him to ride, that I was in some feare of his life. When presently we beheld an auncient Hermitte comming towards vs, who liued in a Caue in those woods, and vndertoke to cure his wounds, being glad of the Beares death. To whose Cell I conueyed Alprinus: At whose request, I haue performed this which you see, and haue vndertaken to hazard my life, to discharge him of death, and to win the assured possession of your loue.

Now I most humbly intreat you for his sake, to conceale what I am, that I be not knowne: and so both disappoint your selfe of his loue, and him of saietie. Onely deuise a meanes to excuse me from this feast: which I trust you will do for Alprinus sake, and then wee may haue time to studie for your further content.

Lucidas loue, made her beleeue that all he said was true: and therefore said: Syr, I trust there is no cause why I should mistrust you: and therefore relying vppon the truth of that which you haue said, I will tell my father you are wounded, and desire rather to go to your Chamber, then to the feast, who I knowe will denie me nothing. This said, she went to her father, and so preuailed with him, that he was contented shee should haue the tending of him: whom she toke to a chamber, suffering none to

come at him, but her maide, whom ſhee truſted: and well might truſt for her fidelitie. Afterwards Lucida came to Ornatus, to determine how ſhe might come to ſee Alprinus, being meſt carefull of his health: and amongſt many other ſpeeches, they concluded, that Ornatus the next morning ſhould depart towards the Forreſt, to Alprinus, and that ſhe by ſome meanes would come thither the next day after, if hee would meete her, to giue her directions where to finde him, which he promiſed to doo. According to this agreement, Ornatus very early the next morning, Armed himſelfe, and as Lucida had inſtructed him, take his leaue of her father, who little ſuſpected he had beene any other then Alprinus, gaue his conſent, and ſo Ornatus in Alprinus armour againe departed the Towne, being glad that he was eſcaped from death, which he was ſure to haue indured, if it had bin any waies knowne that he had ſlaine Alprinus.

And being now alone by himſelfe, hauing the wide world to trauell into, but neuer a friende to go to, voyd of feare, but not of care: he ſtudied whither to direct his iourney: ſometimes his conſcience accuſing him of too much diſloyall dealing towards Lucida, in betraying her vertues by his diſſimulation, in telling her Alprinus was liuing, when hee knewe it to the contrarye.

Then he contrarilie, thought it was lawfull for him to diſſemble with her, to ſaue his owne life, and though he had ſlaine Alprinus, he did it but in defence of his honour.

Amongſt all theſe, this cogitation ſeemed moſt to acquit him of diſhonour, that fortune and the deſtenies had by that meanes ordeined him to eſcape. Whileſt he rode on in theſe dapre meditations, he met with an ancient hermit, who cõming towards him ſaid: Diſcurteous gentleman, how cammeſt thou by that armour? and yet I need not aſke thee, for I knowe thou ſlewſt the worthy gentleman Alprinus which I beheld to my greefe. Father (quoth Ornatus) if thou didſt beholde the ſame, thou canſt witneſſe I did it againſt my will, and in mine owne defence: for whoſe death I am as ſorry as thy ſelf, and would as willingly haue done

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any thing to preserue the same as any man liuing.

Will you then (said the Hermitte) do this for him, vouchsafe to come and speak with him, who is in reasonable good estate in my Cell.

I would to God (said Ornatus) thy words were true: for if he be liuing, it will reuiue my heart with ioy, that is almost vanquisht with care: desiring nothing more then to see him. Hee is liuing said the Hermit, and if you will goe, I will bring you to him presently.

Ornatus being come to the Cell, accordingly found Alprinus very weake by reason of his greeuous wound, to whom Ornatus declared all that happened betwen him and Lucida: which added no little comfort to Alprinus heart, that he thought himselfe of sufficient strength to go and meete with her: and therefore told Ornatus he would go and meete with her, and withall yelded him so many thanks, as if by his meanes, his life had bin preserued.

In the meane time they continued in the olde Hermittes Cane, Alprinus in great comfort, and Ornatus in no lesse care, for the absence of his deare Artesia, breathing forth many a scalding sighe, and vttering many a sad and mournfull lamentation: sometimes vtterly dispairing of attaining her loue, and then againe by remembring her vertues, growing into some better confidence of her constancie. Yet most of all, fearing that Lenons loue to her, might either by perswasion of his death, force, affect of dignitie, or other meanes, winne her to consent to him, especially for that shee hadde no parents to gouerne her, nor hee neuer a faithfull friende to counsaile her.

The next day Alprinus and hee went out to meete Lucida, whom they met at the entrance into the Forrest, and after many kinde salutations past betwixt the two louers, they altogither went backe into the Towne, to Lucidaes Fathers house, who that morning was departed to a Hauen, about businesse of importance.

Ornatus was moſt kindly vſed of them, remaining there vntill Alprinus had wedded Lucida: but then hee thought it high time for him to depart: And on a time finding Alprinus alone, who had ſhowne ſufficient tokens of his friendſhip, hee declared vnto him, the whole truth of his forepaſſed loue to Arteſia, requeſting his helpe, for his paſſage into Phrygia.

Alprinus with great regard, attended the whole diſcourſe, promiſing his vttermoſt aſſiſtance: which (quoth hee none can effect ſo well as Lucida, whoſe father is a marchant, and ſendeth forth ſhips into ſundrie Prouinces, who onely may pleaſure you: which charge I will vndertake: and cauſe her to deale ſo effectually with him, that you ſhall attaine your deſire. Ornatus continued in good hope, ſomewhat abandoning his former diſpaire, whom for a time wee will leaue, attending the time that ſome of the ſhips ſhould depart, to ſpeake of Arteſia his carefull Louer.

CHAP. X.

How *Lenon* cauſed *Arteſia* by violence to bee caried from *Adellenaes* houſe, to the greene Fortreſſe: of the miſeries ſhee indured there. How ſhe was reſcued from thence by *Allinus*, and from him taken by Pyrates. And how *Allinus* accuſed by *Lenon* for her death, was impriſoned.

AFter that Arteſia by Adellenaes carefull tēdance had ſomewhat recouered her health, Lenon began to viſit her againe, beeing vnable to indure the heauie burthen of burning loue: thinking her ſickneſſe had proceeded from feare of Floretus, not for want of Ornatus company, finding an occaſion, ſaluted her in this ſort. Moſt faireſt Arteſia, my heart is ſo firmely inthralled to your beautie, and my affections ſo admire your vertues, that I am conſtrained to vtter my minde, and to tell you, I loue, your beautie, vertues, and other moſt rare

rare perfections, wherewith you are adorned. That I humble sue to you for fauour, and prostrate my selfe your thrall, desiring to be inriched with those Iewels of inestimable price: which hauing once attained, I shall thinke I haue more wealth in my possion, then all the world besides my selfe, doth containe. Your vnkinde vnckles cruelty, you need not feare, nor other misfortune: neither haue you any parents to ouerrule you in making your choyse: then vouchsafe to accept my sute, and yeeld consent to my loue.

My Lord (replied Artesia) I thanke you for your good will, but I know not how to accept of your loue, being yet so far from knowing what it is, that if I should but dreame thereof, my heart would be out of quiet: besides, many cares continually attend the same, and my meane estate so farre vnworthy thereof, with innumerable other discontents and cares that I should make my selfe subiect vnto: that I had rather a thousand times remain in the estate I am now in. Therefore, I intreate you to settle your loue elsewhere, more agreeable to your estate and fancie: for I shall thinke my selfe most fortunate, if I neuer fall into that labyrinth of disquiets: but will during my life, labour to keepe my selfe free from loues bands. Lenon would not take this for an answer: but with many other speeches, continued his sute, whom Artesia still put out of hope: that he departed for that time exceedingly discontented, leauing her no lesse disquieted in her thoughts how to auoid his loue.

In this sort did he daily visit her, still growing more importunate, amongst many other, this conference past betwixt them: Artesia (quoth he) how long shall I sue, and be frustrated in my hopes, by your vnkindnesse? is your heart hardened against me? Or am I of so base conditions, that you cannot conceiue well of me? Or is it possible you beare so hatefull a conceit of loue as you make shew for? then may I accurse mine eyes, that haue betrayed my senses, in making them your thrall: then may I thinke my woe began, when I first began to loue. O Artesia be not so cruell, as to punish me with this disdaine.

My Lord (replied ſhe) I ſeeke not your diſquiet: for at the firſt motion I tolde you my minde, which ſhall neuer alter, neither is my heart hardened againſt you more then others: for I am determined not to loue: then ſeeing you ſee my intent, it were a point of wiſedome in you to ſhake of this fonde and fooliſh loue, which is but a toy, and an idle fancie, that is bred by vanitie: and do not ſeeke to make loue growe without a roote, for in my heart it ſhall neuer take roote: but rather when it is rooted, I will pull out heart and all, but I will roote it out. Then quoth he) you are led by obſtinacie and not by reaſon, for that you are ſubiect to loue, you cannot denie: then why not me before another, conſidering my loue is more faithfull then any other? And I being moſt worthy, why ſhould I not be firſt accepted? Artesia was wearie of his ſpeeches, hauing her conſtant thoughts onely bent on Ornatus: therefore to rid him from her, ſhe ſaid It is in vaine to die many words, neither am I like to thoſe that will at the firſt ſame coye, but afterwards yeelde: but I deſire you to bee ſatisfied with that which I haue alreadie ſayde, that I cannot loue.

Faire Damoſell, how can I be ſatisfied with that vnreaſonable anſwere, when my life dependeth on your conſent: which your denial will finiſh? then giue mee leaue to ſay, I cannot bee ſo ſatisfied: but being extreamely refuſed, I muſt growe perforce to be as vnreaſonable in my requeſts. Conſider you not what dignitie I might aduance you to, by making you my wife, conſider you not the pleaſures, ioyes and abundance of all contents you might enioy with me, and how faithfully I loue you, and with what humilitie I ſeeke your loue, and yet notwithſtanding you remaine obdurate? My power is great, that whereas I ſue, I might commaund, and by authoritie, compell you to conſent: then bee not ſo ouerconceited, as ſo obſtinately to reiect your good. And thinke, that if my loue were not conſtant, I might vſe extreames, which would ſoone alter your minde.

Suppoſe (replied Artesia) I were ſo pœuiſh as you terme me,

me, yet being borne free I am not to be made bond by constraint: and were you the greatest king in the world, you could not rule the heart, though you might by iniustice punish the bodie: for it is not Kingdomes, wealth, nor crueltie, can turne hatred to loue: but it may sooner turne loue into hatred. But by your speeches I may partly know your thought, and the lippes vtter what the heart intendeth: do with mee what you will, I cannot loue: neither will I loue you, were you Monarche of all the world.

Lenon was so much grieued and vered at her speeches, that hee was readie to tare his haire, his loues extremitie making him rather madde then sober, that presently hee departed, saying no more but this: farewell hard-harted Artesia.

Shee was glad hee was gone, presently telling Adellena, all that had past betwixt them: and how peremptorilie shee had answered his importunate iste, telling Adellena, that since Ornatus was for her sake banished, shee would neuer loue any but him, and preserue her life in hope to see him againe: but the first knowledge of his death, should bee the latest date of her life: both she and Adellena thinking that Lenon would neuer returne to prosecute his loue. But hee being come to the Pallace, betooke himselfe to his chamber, raging more like a mad man, then a passionate louer, sometimes swearing, cursing, and stamping, yeelding so much to that mad fancie, that in the ende, he vowed to obteine Artesias loue, though he hazarded his life, honour, and good name: that ranging in this sort, vp and downe his Chamber, hee espied an olde Gentlewoman, named Flera, going by his windowe, whom hee called vnto him, and thus saide. Flera, because I haue assured confidence in thy fidelitie, and purpose to reward thee liberallie, I craue thy counsaile, and with it thy consent, to be faithfull in concealing my secrets, and diligent in doing my commaunde. The olde hagge making an euill fashioned lowe curtesie, sayde: my deare sonne Lenon, be it to do you good,

I will hazard my life, and rather bee torne into a thousand peeces, then reueale what you shall vouchsafe to tell me. Then (quoth hee) counsaile me which way I should begin to win a faire Damosels loue. Marrie my Lord quoth she) giue her knowledge thereof: and then with faire speeches woe her: if that will not preuaile, giue her gold, and there is no doubt, that faire bayte will catch her.

No no (quoth he) these are of no force, I haue made my loue knowne to her, by humble suites, submisse behauiours, and by all kinde of curteous meanes, intreated her consent: yet for all that, she remaineth obstinate: she is rich, and therefore gold with her is of no force: she is fayre, vertuous, noble, and chaste: then what engine hast thou to vndermine that chastitie? Meanes inough (quoth she) peraduenture shee is ruled by others counsell, which may preuaile more then your suite: but might I haue accesse vnto her, I would not doubt but to alter her minde: for being faire, young and rich, she cannot chuse but delight to be praysed: subiect to loue, and therefore yeeld to desire. Dost thou thinke (quoth he) thou couldest winher, wert thou her keeper? I warrant you (quoth she) I would do it.

Then shalt thou bee her keeper, see that thou beest to morrow at my fathers Castle in the greene forrest, where to morrow by night this Damosell shalbe, whose name is Artesia, daughter to Arbastus lately dead: vse her kindly, let her want nothing: nor be not in any wise knowne, that thou knowest me: nor that the Castle belongeth to my father: nor speake not of loue in any case: vse her in this sort vntill I speake with thee, for thou onely shalt haue her custodie. Flera being gone about her businesse, he found out two of his trustiest seruants, to whom he imparted both his mind and intent: willing them the next morning with speed to go to Adellenaes house, and either by force or faire meanes to take Artesia from thence, and carrie her vnto the greene fortresse in the greene Forrest, where they should finde Flera, to whose custodie they should commit Artesia: and themselues should remaine there to prouide all things necessarie vntill his comming.

Early

Early the nert morning, the seruants rode to Adellenas house, wherinto they boldly entred, and comming to Artesia, first spake her faire, but afterwards tolde her she must goe with them, if not willingly by constraint. Artesia then began to burst into teares, weeping and lamenting exceedingly, vpon her knees intreating them, not to offer by violence to carry her from thence, but if they would needes, that they would take Adellena with them: but all was in vaine, for they constrained her to mount vp behinde one of them, and away they rode in great haste: this heaue parting was so suddaine, that Artesia could not bid Adellena adue but with teares, nor Adellena speake a word for griefe, their sences being so farre confounded with care, that their harts were readie to burst therewith. Artesia thought this was Lenons doing, and therefore sorrowed the more: not that he vsed her vnkindly, but that he loued her, not fearing his crueltie, but his lust: not regarding what crueltie he could vse by hatred, but fearing his loue would make him seeke her dishonour. Being come to the Fortresse, and committed to the custodie of Flera, the old woman began to speake her faire, and vse her kindly, yet her verie words and countenance bewraying her guiltie conscience, to whom Artesia would not speake a word, least thereby she should giue her occasion to prate: meate she brought vnto her, but she refused to taste thereof, and when she came to her Chamber, she laie on the rushes, refusing the bedde, tormenting her heart with care, vering her head with thought, and busying her sences, or meditating to what issue this vsage would fort, sometimes calling on Ornatus name for comfort, sometimes accusing Lenon of barbarous crueltie, and cursing her crooked destenies: vttering such plaints as would haue turned tyrants to ruth, weeping her eyes drie, and her garments wet, tearing her haire, and tormenting euery one of her sences with veration, refusing sleepe, rest, ease, or quiet.

The nert day Lenon came thither, asking Flera howe she fared, who tolde him that she would not speake, eate nor sleepe, but fared like one madde and senceleste. But let her alone quoth

ſhe and you ſhall ſee this fitte will ſoone be ouer, the extremitie whereof, being once paſt, I will vſe my ſkill to trie her.

Lenon giuing order to haue all things neceſſarie prouided, departed. Dinner time being come, and meate ſet before Arteſia, ſhe refuſed to eate: likewiſe ſupper time being come, ſhe determined to do the like. Which Flera perceiuing, ſaid: Faire gentlewoman, to behold your outward appearance, would make one iudge your minde harboꝛed many hidden vertues, but I comparing your actions with your apparant ſhewe, ſuppoſe that you are either mad oꝛ careleſſe: this behauiour, to ſeeme dumbe, to refuſe ſuſtenance, and to refraine from ſleepe, are inſtances of follie, not of wiſedome. What if you ſpeake, what if you did eate, oꝛ take reſt, ſhould you be euer the woꝛſe? oꝛ refraining, can that do you good, oꝛ bannith griefe, and not rather make your eſtate woꝛſe? do you thinke to preuent any thing by doing your ſelfe harme? no fonde childe, eate thy meate, and preſerue thy life: foꝛ liuing thou maieſt attaine thy deſires, but dying thou art paſt hope. With that ſhe departed ſmiling.

Arteſia hearing her ſpeeches, beganne to conſider indeede what follie it was to refuſe her meate, and foꝛ feare to ſhoꝛten her life by diſtemperating her ſelfe, which might bee the meanes to further Lenons intent, whome ſhee knewe would ſeeke her life, if he could not winne her loue, ſhee preſently left off ſuche deſperate behauiour, and with well waied conſideration, attended the euent of the woꝛſt miſfoꝛtune, that from that time ſhee both eate her meate, and did all that ſhe could to comfoꝛt her ſelfe, ſtill liuing in good hope of Ornatus returne.

Some fewe dayes after, Lenon came to the Foꝛtreſſe againe, enquiring of Flera howe Arteſia fared. Well quoth ſhe, but you willed me to conceale that it was your doing to bring her hither, and ſome bodie elſe hath tolde her thereof, foꝛ ſhee knoweth the truth as well as your ſelfe oꝛ I, and therefoꝛe I would wiſhe you to viſite her, and after that let

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me alone to perſwade her.

Lenon was ruled by the olde woman, and came where Arteſia was, ſaluting her, but ſhee diſdaining either to loke on him, or heare him ſpeake, withdrewe her ſelfe from his preſence. Wherewith he departed, willing Flera to doo that which ſhee had vndertaken. And Flera finding her as ſhee thought in a fit moode, beganne to commune with her of many things, amongſt which loue was one. Arteſia a while heard her, but in the end, perceiuing her drift, cut her off with theſe ſpeeches.

Olde iniquitie, I knowe whereto thy talke tendeth: thinkeſt thou I will euer harbour a thought of Lenon, that hath vſed me thus diſhonourably? no rather will I rent my wofull heart from out my breſt before his face: neither needeſt thou tell me that he hath intreated thee to ſpeake for him, for I knowe to well both his and thy intent, which ſhall nothing preuaile, but harden my heart againſt him. Therefore doo not ſpeake to me, for I will not heare thee, nor anſwere thee: but hate him, thee, thy counſell, and remaine ſo conſtant in deſpiſing him, that a thouſand deathes ſhall not alter mee. Is it loue hath made him with violence carrie me from my friendes, make me a priſoner, and commit me to the cuſtodie of ſuch a helliſh hagge as thy ſelfe? If that be his loue, let him turne it to hatred, and neuer trouble me, but with hating me: for in ſo doing, he ſhall better pleaſeme.

Then Flera would haue replied, but Arteſia would not ſuffer her, that ſhe beganne to ware angrie, and in the ende to plaine furie, that running to Arteſia, ſhe caught holde on her, and beganne to teare her garments from her bodie, and withall, caught ſometimes ſuch firme holde on her pure fleſhe with her nayles, that the blod followed: that Arteſia began to crie and ſhrike for feare, and ſmart.

When the olde Beldame had executed ſome part of her intended reuenge and crueltie vppon her in this ſort, ſhee lande;

Proud girle, thinkeſt thou to beare it away without facing me? No, do not thinke I will leaue thee thus, but thou ſhalt repent that euer thou cammeſt here, and before I goe, I will haue my minde of thee: then puld ſhe out a knife, and catching holde on her, ſwore, that vnleſſe ſhe would promiſe to vſe Lenon kindly, when he next came, ſhe would cut her throate: which draue Arteſia into that feare, that ſhe began to intreate her and ſpeake faire, promiſing to condiſcend to any thing that agreed to her honour. Stand not vpon thoſe nice tearmes with me quoth Flera, but here ſweare to yeeld to loue him, for ſo thou maiſt delay him, and fruſtrate his hopefull expectation, whom thou art not worthie to touch, much leſſe to beare ſuch a preſuming minde as thou doeſt, in ſcorne of his loue. Therefore yeelde to that which I requeſt or ſtand to my mercy. Canſt thou beſtowe thy loue better then on ſo honourable a Prince? Canſt thou attaine more dignitie, reape more content, or enioy more quiet with any then with him? Then do not deny me, for I purpoſe not to be denied.

Arteſia trembling for feare, made this anſwere onely to ſatiſfie her, I am contented to be ruled by Lenon, whoſe meaning I know is honourable. Therefore I pray do not offer me this outrage, but ſuffer me to liue in quiet vntil his comming. If this will not ſatiſfie you, then do the worſt you can: for death is more welcome to me then life in theſe extremities. Well quoth ſhe, I will trie you, but if you dally, beware what will enſue, for I am reſolued what to do. Arteſia was glad ſhe had ſatiſfied her, though it were with vttering words which ſhe neuer intended to performe.

Adellena ſeeing how ſuddenly Arteſia was taken from her, cauſed one of her ſeruants paſſe to followe them to the greene Fortreſſe, who returning, tolde her what he had ſeene. Then Adellena began to ſtudie how to releaſe her from thence, and with all haſte rode to Allinus houſe, where being arriued, ſhe declared all that ſhe knew as concerning Ornatus, and how Lenon had carried Arteſia by violence into the greene Fortreſſe. Allinus being glad to heare that Ornatus was aliue, promiſed to re-

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deeme Artesia from Lenons custodie, and that to effect, the next euening caused his men to mount themselues, and himselfe with some fiue of them, disguised from being knowne, came to the greene Fortresse, and one of them knocking whilest the other hid themselues, the seruants little suspecting any such ambush or intent, opened the gate, when presently they rushed in, and some found out Artesia, whom Allinus told who he was, and to what intent he came: Artesia was glad thereof, and willingly yelded to go with him, but the olde woman made such an outcrie, that all the place rung thereof: one of Allinus seruaunts seeing she would not be pacified, drew his sword and thrust it through her bodie, and so with a yelling crie, she gaue vp the ghoast. Then presently Allinus departed with her, intending to carry her to his owne house, to keep her there vnknowne, vntil he could heare of Ornatus. And remembring that the two seruants were fled, and would no doubt certifie Lenon what was done, would not go backe the same way he came, though the readiest, for then he thought he should meete them, but went a more secret way, thinking by that meanes to passe vnseen, and entring into the plaines where cattell fed, Allinus espied a company comming towards them, whom he presently suspected to be Lenon, which in reason he could not thinke, but that feare perswaded him thereto; the company likewise espying them (who were certaine Pyrates that were wandred from their shippes to steale cattle) wondred what they should be that were so late abroad, and being readie to any mischiefe, set vpon Allinus and his company, who thinking it had bene Lenon, would by no meanes yeeld, nor speake, fearing he should descrie them, but resisted the Pyrates, who being vsed to many such meetings, some slew two of Allinus seruants, and had giuen himselfe many grieuous wounds, enforcing him to yeeld. Who taking from him all that was good, constraining Artesia to go with them, and hasted to their ships, when hauing conueyed her aboord, to preuent the worst, hoysed saile, and launched into the deepe. Then was Allinus left in most miserable estate, with all speed hasting to his house. Lenons seruants like-

wiſe were by that time it was mionight gotten to the Pallace, and called their Lord out of his bedde, to certifie him what was happened, who preſently mounted himſelfe, and with a ſufficient company rode to the Fortreſſe, and entring, found Fiera ſlaine, and all elſe fled, then began he to muſe who ſhould do that deed, and what they ſhould be that had carried away Arteſia: by this time it was day-light, and Lenon reſted in exceeding veration to be diſpoſſeſt of his bewtifull Loue, yet he commanded his men to poſte by companies ſeueral waies, if it were poſſible to finde thoſe that had done that deed. Whilſt he himſelf remained there bewailing that miſfortune, his ſeruãts had not rode far but (by the light of the day, which diſcouereth things don in darkneſſe) they found Allinus two ſeruants, whoſe dead bodies they carried back to the fortreſſe. Lenon ſeeing them, preſently aſſured himſelfe that Allinus was a partie in this action, and that he had taken away Arteſia to ſeek her death. To preuent which miſchiefe (as he thought then or neuer to be done) he preſently rode home to the Court, and humbly vpon his knee, intreated his father to graunt him licence with a ſufficient power to reſcue Arteſia from Allinus, who intended to murder her, declaring how he himſelf found her in Adellenas houſe, and how that he had placed her in the greene Fortreſſe, to defend her from Allinus and others cruelties, being left fatherleſſe: and how that night Allinus had taken her from thence by treaſon, and intended no leſſe then her ruine. The king hearing his ſonnes ſpeeches, granted his requeſt. Then preſently diuers to the number of three hundreth men, with as much ſpeed as could poſſibly be, armed themſelues, and in haſte with Lenon, went to Allinus Caſtle, into which they violently and vnawares to any within, entered. Lenon preſently laide hands on Allinus, whom he found ſore wounded, aſking him for Arteſia, who thinking ſome of his ſeruants had before bewrayed what he had done, preſently confeſt the truth of all, both of his intent, and how Arteſia was reſcued from him, but by whome he knewe not, and how at that time two of his ſeruants were ſlaine.

Lenon giuing no credit to his speeches, neuer left till he had searched the whole Castle throughout, but not finding her, accused Allinus that he had murthered her, commaunding his men to binde him, and carry him as a Traytor to the Court. Who being come before the King, confest the truth as before he had done, vtterly denying that he neuer sought Artesias death, but her safetie: but yet notwithstanding the King was so ouerruled by Lenons accusations and perswasions, that he committed him to prison, his goods and landes were seized vppon as a Traytor, his Ladie wife turned out of doores in poore array, and al crueltie and outrage committed against his seruants and kinsfolkes, and commaundement giuen, that none should succour them. Allinus being in prison laden with yrons, and hardly vsed, yet endured that affliction patiently, but hearing of his Ladies calamitie, and how she was vnwillingly constrained to beg, that all her life long had bene tenderly brought vp, thought those sorrowes would some bring her to an ende, and entered into many bitter lamentations for her and his owne misfortune, which were too tedious to recite. His seruants were constrained to disguise themselues, and trauell into farther places of the Countrey to liue vnknowne, otherwise none would haue entertained them. His Ladie was compelled to seek out a kinswoman of hers, that liued in the countrey, of whom she was entertained, and there liued a poore life, far differing from her former life, which she toke most patiently. And thus was Allinus house defaced, his goods and lands seized vpon, himself imprisoned, his wife in poore estate, his seruants driuen to wander from place to place, readie often to perish for want of succour, and all his dignitie turnd to miserie, onely by Lenons malice: who had no ground for those accusations he vsed against him, but onely of a vaine suppose, and mad franticke affection that ouerruled his heart, which so much preuailed with him, that he sought by all meanes he could, his death.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

How *Ornatus* gatte ſhipping into *Phrygia*. How *Allinus* was ſet at libertie: and how the Pyrates caſt lottes who ſhould poſſeſſe *Arteſia*.

Rnatus all this while remained in the cemtrey of Natolia, with Alprinus and Lucida, in great griefe, for want of meanes to depart into Phrygia, to ſee what was become of his deare Loue Arteſia: but being a long time fruſtrated by reaſon none of the ſhips that were at ſea came home, he began to diſpaire, thinking that Arteſia ſuppoſing him to be dead by reaſon of his long abſence, would new marry Lenon, which griefe, and many other doubtfull thoughts oppreſt his heart with ſuch paſſion, that he began to ware ſicke, and afterwards fel into an exceeding feuer, which held him for the ſpace of three moneths in great extremitie, which ſurely had abridge his dayes, had he not bene moſt carefully nouriſht by Lucida, who had an eſpeciall care of his good. During which time of his ſickneſſe, certaine ſhips of Phrygia arriued on the coaſt of Natolia, some fourteene miles diſtant from the Towne, where Ornatus was, of which he had intelligence by certaine Factors belonging to Lucidas father, which newes reuiued his ſpirits with ioy, before drouping with care, that within fewe dayes he recouered his former health, which greatly reioyced Alprinus and Lucida, whoſe hearts were linked vnto him, in bands of vnſeparable friendſhip: who likewiſe dealt ſo effectually for him, that they attained warrant for his paſſage, and furniſhed him with all kinde of neceſſaries, and ſufficient ſtore of gold to beare his charges.

Lucida likewiſe intreating her father to agree with the Phrygian Marchants for his conuoy, for that himſelfe would not be knowne,

knowne, diſguiſing himſelfe into the habit of a Pilgrime, which kinde of people, might without diſturbance paſſe vnexamined, and without moleſtation. And the time of his departure being come, he toke his leaue of Lucida. Who toke his departure with ſuch exceeding ſorrow, that the abundance of her flowing teares ſtopt the paſſage of her ſpeech. Alprinus likewiſe with many curteſies bad him farewell, and wiſhed his proſperous ſucceſſe. Thus departed he the confines of Natolia, where he was in ſo ſhort ſpace ſo well beloued, and ſo kindly vſed, that had not his loue to Arteſia, and hope to finde her in ſafetie conſtrained him, he could haue bene contented to haue ſpent the terme of his life in that place.

The Marchants of Phrygia had not ſayled many dayes, but they arriued in a hauen ſome ten myles diſtant from the Court, whither Ornatus determined to trauell, and hauing taken his leaue of the Marriners, and paide them their due, furniſhed with all things fit for his diſguiſe, he toke his iourney, and the firſt night lodged at a village neare adioyning to his fathers Caſtle, the cuſtome of which place he well knewe before, and therefore framed his behauiour accordingly. And being ſet at ſupper amongſt ſuch gueſte as lodged in that houſe with him, the Hoſte named Mylo ſuddenly ſight, which one of them noting, demanded what inward griefe draue him thereto. Mary ſir quoth he, if you haue not alreadie heard the newes, I will tell you ſo much as I knowe, which I would I had neuer knowne. Within fewe dayes there dwelt an auncient Knight hereby named Allinus, exceedingly well beloued of all men, who is lately fallen into great miſerie, the occaſion whereof was this; then did he declare the maner of all that had happened to Allinus, how Arteſia was taken from him, but by whom no man knew, himſelfe in priſon, his goods confiſcated, and his wife and ſeruants turned out of doores, with commaund that none ſhould ſuccour them.

Ornatus heart was ſo pincht with this newes, that he was readie to fall vnder the Table, which olde Mylo and the reſt noted, perceiuing ſuch a chaunged countenance in him, that they

all denied him to be exceedingly ſicke: but hee fearing to diſcouer himſelfe, tolde them it was but an ordinarie courſe with him, to be ſo troubled: but being vnable to mittigate that paſſion, hee roſe from the table, and gat to his chamber, where being alone, he began to meditate the depth of theſe miſchances, imputing the originall thereof, to proceed from himſelfe. That he entred into theſe bitter plaints. My miſfortunes are without compare, and I more miſerable then any wretch liuing: My owne euill deſtenies, Arteſia was firſt left in miſerie, afterwards impriſoned, and now ſurpriſed by thoſe that will intend her ruine, or diſhonor. My father impriſoned: my mother banniſhed: all his landes, liuings, ſeruants, and friends, taken from him, and he ſubiect to Lenons mercie, that is mercileſſe, cruell, deceitfull, and malitious.

Onelie by my folie, are theſe miſchaunces befallen. Can there then be any more wretched then my ſelfe? hath not my father cauſe to wiſh that hee had neuer begotten me, and my mother that ſhee had neuer borne me? hath not Arteſia cauſe to accuſe me, hate me, and forſake me? When for my ſake, by my folie, and want of wiſedome, ſhe is brought to ſo many miſeries? What ſhall I doe? or what remedie ſhall I ſeeke, when all things is paſt recure? Whom may I blame, but my ſelfe? Is there any that is interreſſed in the cauſe of theſe woes, but my ſelfe? Lenon, Lenon, as well as my ſelfe, hath procured theſe euils: his affection to Arteſia, hath cauſed my banniſhmēt, my parents woe, and her loſſe. To trauell in her ſearch, and leaue my father in priſon, the one would be in vaine, when I know not whither ſhee is conueied, and the other dangerous to his ſafetie: for Lenon no doubt of malice will ſeeke his death.

In theſe and ſuch like plaints hee ſpent moſt part of that night.

Earlie the next morning comming out of his Chamber, hee heard a great tumult in that Village: the occaſion whereof, was this: Such as were Tenaunts and friendes to Allinus, hearing of his vniuſt impriſonment, and with what crueltie Le-

non

non sought his ouerthrow, assembled themselues together, with purpose to intreate the King for his release: that in the end there was three hundred of them assembled. The common people and such as were idle persons, and readie to any attempt, misconceiuing their intent, and bearing a minde desirous of libertie, which they thought they were restrained from, by certain stricht lawes the King had made, gathered vnto them, that contrarie to their expectation, there was a multitude: the intent of whose assemblie, being demanded, they answered, that they ment to redeeme Allinus: amongst whom, Ornatus in his disguise, thrust himselfe, vsing many forcible perswasions to vrge them forwardes to that attempt. That they were readie to runne confusedlie to the Court, not regarding daunger, nor the displeasure of the King.

One of Allinus friends named Trasus, standing vppe amongst the rest, craued audience, to whome they all listned, whilest he said.

I perceiue your intent, is to release Allinus, wherein you shall shewe your loue to him, and doo a deede worthie to be eternized, for that hee hath not at all deserued to haue such iniustice ministred vnto him: therefore be wise in this attempt, and first know against whom you beare armes: that is, against your lawfull King, who may punish this fact with death: for that we vndertake to breake those lawes which he hath ordained.
But followe my counsell, and I will sette you downe a course, whereby you shall attaine your desire, and bee voyde of any such daunger, which is this. First lette vs all repaire to the Court, and humblie intreate the King for his release, if hee will not graunt that, then that hee woulde haue his cause tryed by the rest of the Peeres of the land: Which if hee also denye; then may wee with good cause venture our liues in his rescue. The multitude hearing Trasus, in signe of consent, all cryed, Trasus, Trasus, shall be our Captaine.

Then preſently euerie one with ſuch furniture as they had, haſted to the Court, and comming togither, would not ſeeme to enter by force, but with a full conſent yelded to Traſus directions. Who deſired one of the guard to certifie his Maieſtie that there were a number of his ſubiects gathered togither, with no intent of euil, but onely humbly to craue a boone at his highneſſe hand. The King being certified hereof, was much troubled in his minde what the thing ſhould be they would demaund, and being perſwaded by Lenon, would not himſelfe come out, but ſent one of his knights to demaund what was their requeſt. Thraſus declared vnto him the cauſe of their comming, and what they demaunded. Which when the King vnderſtood, being exceedingly inraged at their boldneſſe, bad the knight make them this aunſwere, that he was not by his ſubiects to be controlled, and therefore denied to performe the leaſt of their demaund: commaunding them preſently to depart euery man to their ſeuerall place, leaſt he puniſhed their preſumption with death. The meſſenger had not ſcarce ended his words, but preſently the vnruly multitude began to ruſh in at the Court gates, ſome carelеſſly ruinating whatſoeuer came next hand, ſome breaking downe windowes, ſome aſſayling ſuch as reſiſted them, and euery one bent to doo miſchiefe. The King fearing the peoples vnruly rebellion, would turne to ſome greater miſchiefe then could ſuddeinly be preuented, and might alſo indaunger his perſon, not knowing who had inſtigated them thereto, with the Queene and Lenon fled. Which when Thraſus knew, calling to the multitude, he willed them in any wiſe not to deſtroy the Kings houſe, nor attempt any thing more to diſpleaſe his Maieſtie, for that the King was departed, and he had Allinus at libertie. But notwithſtanding ſome bent onely to inrich themſelues, ſpoyled the Kings treaſure, and vtterly defaced the houſe: by which time the night drew nigh, and euery one began to withdraw themſelues. Allinus ſeeing what exceeding miſchiefe this attempt had bred, which was done contrary to his thought, and without his conſent, yet thought it beſt not to truſt to the Kings mercie, though he were

neuer

neuer so innocent, for notwithstanding that he would suppose it was done by his procurement, therefore after Thrasus had willed the baruly multitude to depart as secretly as they could, euery one to his house, to preuent further daunger & saue their liues, by keeping themselues vnknowne: he and Thrasus that night without delay disguised themselues, and fled towards the coast to get shipping for Armenia, whither they intended to trauell.

Ornatus was by and beheld all this, glad of his fathers escape, not purposing at all to discouer himselfe, vntill he had found Artesia, in whose search he ment presently to trauell: but such confused thoughts, whither to direct his steps, did so ouerwhelme his conceits, that he rested like one metamorphosed, not knowing whether he would seeke her by sea or by land. By sea he thought his labours would be in vaine, and if he should go to finde her by land, he knewe not whether she might be at sea, and so conueyed into forraine Countries. At last remembring he had heard Mylo say she was rescued from Allinus in the desart where his Cattle fed, he determined to trauell thither, though he had litle hope to finde her there. And being come thither, sometimes bewayling her absence, accusing his hard fortune, breathing forth bitter sighs in remembrance of her losse, and renuing the remembrance of their loue, he spent some three daies in that place, vttering those plaints to the trees and birdes, for otherwise there was none to heare him. Where for a while we will leaue him.

The Pyrates hauing as is before said, taken Artesia from Allinus, and with her such wealth as they could find about them, hauing withall furnished themselues with the spoyle of such Cattell as fed in those places, returned to their ship, and with haste hoysed sayle, the night being now past. One that was chiefe amongst the rest, named Luprates, went downe to view Artesia, hauing as yet not seene her bewtie by reason of the night, and now comming neare her, and beholding her diuine forme, his minde was presently rauisht with that sight, and he thought that none but himselfe should enioy her, which toke such efficacie, that whereas before he intended nothing but her dishonour, his

minde was now altered, and he intented to vse her in most reuerent and decent sort, and not by crueltie, but curtesie, to winne hir loue. But beholding her teares, and exceeding lamentation, and how impatiently she indured the extremities she was driuen vnto, comming towards her with a most submisse gesture, friendlie countenance, and gentle speech, he said. Faire Lady, be not any thing disquieted that you are made captiue to suche as delight in spoyle, for though our mindes are otherwise bent to all incivilitie, yet to your selfe shall no wrong be offered, such vertue hath bewtie imprinted in my heart, and whereas heretofore without mercie, both I and the rest of my consorts haue not regarded the plaints, distresse, nor what wrong wee haue offered either to Ladie or damosell, yet towards your selfe is my heart altered, and my meaning honestly bet: that I assure you not onely of quiet, and to be voyd of all wrong by vs to be done, but also, wherein soeuer I may worke your wil, quiet, ease, or desire, I wil most willingly imploy my vttermost indeuors. Then I beseech you mittigate these cares, bannish this sorrow, & drie vp your teares: for you haue no cause of care, nor occasion of sorrow: but rather to say, this vertue resteth in me, to alter rude and barbarous mindes, to ciuill & vertuous behauior. Artesia loking earnestly vpon him, being indued with an exceeding wit, and thinking it best to speak him faire that vsed hir so kindly, said. Sir I know not how to mitigate my grief, when it increaseth: or how can I be voyd of care, vnlesse I shuld grow altogither careless, being only subiect to woe, & none so vnfortunate as my self, hauing indured so many afflictions & crosses in all respects, that I know not how to assure my selfe of the least quiet? Then giue me leaue to continue my endlesse plaints, & do not blame me of impatiencie, nor think I suspect your speeches, or distrust your fidelitie, if in some sort I continue my sorrowes: for I haue so long continued in them, as I can better away with thē then mirth: for that to me is a stranger. Yet notwithstanding my heart will harbeur some quiet, if by your curtesie I may rest in securitie, and be sheltred from wrong. By this time they were arriued at their place of harbour, which was betwixt the hollow

of

of two Rocks, or rather rockie Ilands, where their ship lay safe from weather, and so farre vnder their shadowe, that it could not be seene. Themselues conueying such wealth as they from time to time got into hollow Caues, of great largenesse, where was all things necessarie, and the rest of Luprates fellowes called him vp. When hauing fastned their ship, Luprates brought Artesia into the Caue, who beholding the same, was surprised with an exceeding discomfort, of euer getting from thence.

Some of the ruder sort liking Artesia, began their rude behauiour towards her, but Luprates stepping vnto them, vttered these speaches. My maisters, thus long haue I liued your Captaine in this place, with care respecting your good as much as mine owne, and taking but an equall share with you, of such prizes as we haue taken, and rather the least part, now onely in respect of my faith and fidelitie, I request to haue this Damosell as my prize, the rest of the wealth take you. In doing which, you shall binde me vnto you for euer. One of the rest liking Artesiaes beawtie as well as he, and of a more rude minde, disdaining that he alone should haue her possession, said. Captaine all which you say we confesse to be true: neither hath our care bin any way lesse thē yours: therfore, there is no reason why you should claime any peculier priuiledge aboue any of vs: besides you know wee made a law, and bound our selues to performe the same by oath, which was, that none should possesse any thing without the generall consent of vs all. Then performe those conditions, and let her belong to vs all, or to the chiefest of vs, & in so doing, neither of vs shall sustaine wrong: thus began they to contend about Artesia, euery one desirous to possesse her, & yet neither willing any should haue hir but himself, that they were likely to mutinie and fal out, till at the last they cōcluded to cast lots, & she fel to Luprates share, that was the most worthy of that priuiledge, for that he bare the most vertuous mind. Thus for a time this strife was ended, and Artesia was by Luprates kindly vsed for many daies: in the end their victuals begā to waste, & they thought it high time to seek for more, & they determined to fetch in some as before they had done.

But

But then began Luprates to take care in whoſe cuſtodie to leaue Arteſia, leaſt in his abſence they ſhould do her wrong. Amongſt the reſt he choſe out one whom he thought fitteſt, and to him he committed her, by whoſe meanes Arteſia reſted voyd of diſturbance, though not void of exceeding care that continually tormented her, fearing neuer to ſee Ornatus againe, nor to be releaſed from that place of bondage.

CHAP. XII.

How *Ornatus* found *Arteſia*, and preſerued her life: and how ſhee was againe taken from him by *Lenon*, and what afterwards befell.

LVprates and the reſt, being landed, came in the night into the plaines to ſteale Cattle, and by chaunce lighted on the place where Ornatus haunted, being directed to him by the ſound of his lamentations: Luprates demaunded what he was, I am (quoth he) a moſt miſerable forlorne creature, by miſfortune driuen to all extremitie. Then quoth he, art thou not for our company: and with that they departed, leauing him there. Ornatus heart began preſently to miſdoubt that they were the verie ſame that had taken Arteſia from Allinus, which made him preſently ſtudie how to haue them apprehended: remembring that he had heard many complaine that their cattle were often ſtolne, he ſuppoſed verily them to be the theeues, that with all the haſte he could, he ranne to the next village and raiſed the Townesmen, telling them what he had ſeene, who preſently iſſued out, and with ſuch weapons as came next hand followed the Pyrates, and ſoone found them, ſetting vpon them, tooke two of them, and the reſt ſome ſore wounded & hurt, fled to their ſhip, and with all the haſte they could gat to their harbour.

Early

Early the next morning, the inhabitants conueied the Pyrates to the Court, who being come before the King, confest the manner of their life, and where they liued. Then Lenon presentlie supposed, that they were the very same that had taken Artesia from Allinus, and demaunding the same of them, they tolde him that there was such a Damosell in their Caue, and that shee tolde them her name was Artesia. Then Lenon without delay strogly accompanied, rode to the next Hauen, and there got shipping by the Pyrates directions, to finde out their fort. Ornatus likewise, after he had raised the people, secretlie followed the Pyrates vnto the place, where their ship lay, and amongst the rest entred the same: who by reason of their haste, and exceeding feare, regarded him not, who thrust himselfe into that daunger, onely to see if Artesia were in their custodie, not reking how his life might be indangered thereby, but the Pyrates by Luprates directions, hasted to the fort, and from thence, toke Artesia into their shippe, not daring to stay there, for that they knew some of their fellowes were taken, who might by compulsion be constrained to reueale the place of their abode.

Ornatus no sooner espied Artesia, but he knew her, and his heart leapt within him for ioy to see that happie sight, but he durst not speake to her, nor scarce settle his eyes to behold her, for feare of suspect, for that Luprates marualed how shee came amongst them: demaunding what shee was, and what shee made there? I am (quoth shee) a poore Pilgrim, that against my will was by some of this company constrayned to come aboord.

Luprates beleeuing he said true, made no farther question, but with haste sayled from Phrygia, conueying Artesia into his Cabin, vsing many speaches to comfort her.

They hadde not sayled many houres, but a contrary winde began to arise, and the Heauens were darkened with thicke Cloudes, and such a mightie tempest arose, that the shippe was by violence driuen backe, their maine Maste broken and throwne ouerboorde, and all in daunger of destruction, had not the land beene neere, for the shippe driuen

by violence of the Sea, ranne a grounde, and there ſplit in ſunder, and the Pyrates with great hazard eſcaped drowning: none of them nor Luprates once regarding Arteſia, but Ornatus ſeing in what perill ſhe was, caught holde on her, and getting on to a planke, being withall ſomewhat skilfull to ſwimme, with much adoe gatte on to the firme lande, and preſerued her from a miſerable death by drowning.

He was no ſoner paſt daunger, but Luprates would haue taken her from him, but Ornatus ſeing none but himſelf there, and all the reſt fled for feare, tolde him, ſince he had forſaken her in extremitie, he was not worthie of her, and therefore ſhould not haue her. Villaine (quoth Luprates) yelde her me with quiet, or elſe thy life ſhall not determe her. With that Ornatus caught holde on a bord which he cleft in ſunder with his ſwte, and with the ſame gaue Luprates ſo ſndaine and deadly a wounde, that the braines fell about the place, and he died. By this time the ſtorme was quite ouerpaſt, and Ornatus ſeing his deare Loue verie weake with feare and diſtemperature, by the arme led her vnto a mollie banke, where the Sunnes bright beames had full force to drie her garments dropping with wet.

Arteſia ſeing howe tenderly this ſtraunger regarded her, and with what paine he had preſerued her, when ſhe was of all but him forſaken, being willing to ſhewe that ſhe was gratefull, ſaid. Sir the paines you haue taken, and friendſhip you haue ſhowne to me, deſerue more thankes and recompence then I am able to giue: and therefore I deſire you to thinke, that if I were able I would requite the ſame: but my miſfortunes are ſo exceeding, that they withholde me from doing that I would: onely thankes is the ſmall requitall I can yelde in token of a gratefull minde: being by your meanes at more quiet then many dayes I haue bene, though more diſquietted then you would iudge: but now I relie vpon your vertues, with hope thereby to be preſerued, and not driuen to further miſerie.

Faire Ladie (quoth Ornatus) my life ſhall be ſpent in your defence, neyther will I part from you vntill I haue brought

you

you to the place which you desire, requesting you to make no doubt of my loyaltie. I suppose your name is Artesia, because (quoth he) in my travels I have met a Gentleman of this countrey named Ornatus, of whome I learned the trueth of many of your misfortunes: who I assure you is in good health. O blessed newes (quoth she) then will I hope once againe to see my deare Ornatus, whose absence hath beene my onely cause of woe.

She had scarce ended those words, but Ornatus espied a ship ruen then come a shore where theirs was cast away, most of the men landed, which was the shippe wherein Lenon was, who beheld the other shippe cast away, and the storme being ceased arrived there. From whome Ornatus knewe not how to hide himselfe: and Artesia not so much as thinking Lenon had bene it, but that it was some shippe that likewise by the storme was driven to lande there: Presently the men begonne to spredde themselues every way, and some of them some espied Artesia, giuing Lenon knowledge thereof, who immediately came towardes her, moste kindly saluting her, but she being exceedingly disinayed with his sight, whome she most mortally hated, for verie griefe burst into teares, that in abundance gush from her eyes.

Lenon marvelling thereat, (and little thinking how much she hated him, and how unwelcome he was) rather expecting thankes for his paines then reproofe, said; My deare Artesia, be not now discomforted, since there is no further cause of care, I have most diligently laboured to release you from griefe ever since Allinus by treason conveyed you from my custodie: taking your absence in great heauinesse, for that it pinched my heart to thinke you should fall into suche distresse: but now that all those misfortunes are past, I beseech you goe with me to the Court, where I will labour to procure your content. Artesias heart was vexed to heare his speeches, that she made him this answere.

Moſt diſcurteous Lenon, none but your ſelfe are cauſe of my woe, whoſe ſight more tormenteth me, then all the afflictions I euer endured. Allinus carried me indeed from the greene Fortreſſe, not by treaſon, but to ſhelter me from diſhonour, which you did intend, elſe would you not haue ſuffered me to endure ſuch miſerie as I did by my hellish keeper. Thinke you I haue cauſe either to thinke you intend my good, or take any comfort by your preſence, when you onely diſquiet me, not ſuffering me to enioy my libertie, but would perforce conſtrain me to that I cannot like. Had you left me in Adellenas houſe, then had I not fallen into ſuch miſerie as ſince that I haue endured, nor Allinus for his vertue haue bene brought to pouertie, that being before my profeſſed enemie, ſeeing my miſerie, it ſo mollified his heart, that he hath pitied me, and ſought my libertie, and onely by crueltie, not by iuſtice, haue you ſought his ouerthrow. Then I beſeech you leaue me here, for I had rather indure the hazard of my miſfortune, then liue to be tormented with your importunacie. Lenon was ſo amazed to heare her vnkind reply, little thinking he had bene ſo much out of her fauour, that he could not tel what to ſay; ſometimes thinking to leaue her there and vtterly to forſake her, but that thought was ſone ouercome by his affection or violent ſting of deſire to enioy her loue: that once againe he ſaid; Why Arteſia do you regard my good will no more, then for my paines, to yelde me rebukes: and for my loue, diſdaine? That I cauſed you to be brought from Adellenas houſe, was, for that being there you were ſubiect to many miſfortunes. And if I impriſoned Allinns, it was for that I ſuppoſed him your enemy, and feared he wold haue done you wrong: ſo that whatſoeuer I did with intent of good, you repay me with diſlike: I conuert all my doings to the worſt meaning: wherein you ſhewe your ſelfe too cruell, that will not yeild me the leaſt fauour for my conſtant loue. O Arteſia be not ſo hard-hearted. Arteſia notwithſtanding many faire promiſes, vowes, and proteſtations he made, would not yeeld to go with him, but deſired rather that he would leaue her there. Lenon tolde her, though not for his ſake,

yet

yet for her safetie, it were best for her to goe: which said, he commaunded his seruants to place her in a Litter. Which when she sawe she must needes doo, she called to Ornatus, saying: God Palmer go along with me, that for the kindnesse you haue shewen in preserving my life, I may yeld you some recompence. And (quoth she) to Lenon, I request nothing of you for my selfe, but for this straunge Pilgrim, who when by the stormе the ship was cast away, I readie to perish, caught me out of the water and preserued my life: and do not for his good will to me, vse him as you did my deare Syluian, whom you banished, for that she preserued my life from my vnkind vncle, with that she wept exceedingly. Then Lenon asked Ornatus what he was, I am (quoth he) as you see, a Pilgrim, that was forced to come aboord the Pyrates ship, and (amongst the rest) was readie to perish, but that by the diuine prouidence, I was ordained to preserue that vertuous Damsels life. For that deed quoth Lenon, I will reward you most kindly: therefore go along with vs. Then they all departed to the Court. Lenon presently caused Artesia to be lodged in a most sumptuous place of the Court, appointing diuers Damsels to attend her, thinking by those meanes to win her to consent to loue him: but all prou'd vaine, his care was cast away, his cost to little effect, and his kindnesse vnregarded. For Artesia was so constant to Ornatus, that shee hated Lenon: her heart was wholly imployed to wish his good, and Lenons ill. For she determined neuer to loue him, though she were assured of Ornatus death: that she spent her time in continuall care & sadnesse, shewing no signe of ioy, no shewe of comfort, but euen as one that regarded no rest, nor take felicitie in any thing, that Lenon both admired the same, and laboured by many meanes to alter that humour: but the more he sought to please her, the more she was displeased: and more discontented at his kindnesse then any thing else. In this sort she continued many dayes, without the least shewe of alteration.

Ornatus all this while remaining in the Court, (making the cause of his staie) to receiue Lenons promised reward, whereas

indéed he ſtaied to ſée what would become of Arteſia, or by what meanes to get her from thence. To effect which, he ſawe no poſſible meanes, nor could in many dayes come to ſée Arteſia, which filled his heart with griefe: only comforted himſelfe with remembring her conſtant loyaltie. And one day being by himſelfe alone, he entered into theſe cogitations. Ornatus thou haſt remained many dayes in this place, kept from thy Loue, and ſought no meanes to ſet thy heart at reſt, or her at libertie. Doſt thou make no more account of her loue, then to attempt nothing to attaine the ſame? or are thy ſpirits of no more courage? then they will do nothing: thy wit ſo ſhallow, thou canſt deuiſe no ſtratageme, or thy mind ſo cowardly, thou dareſt not reuenge the wrong Lenon doth thée? What though he be the Prince and heire of this land, is not both he and his father hated, ruling by vſurpation, and with crueltie, not with iuſtice, hath ſought the downfall of thy houſe? Can Arteſia thinke either valour or vertue to reſt in thée, when ſhe ſhall know how neare thou art her ſoe, but dareſt not touch him? will ſhe not eſteeme thée a coward and vnworthie to enioy her loue? Nay when ſhe knoweth this, will ſhe not alter her loue? Why ſhouldſt not thou ſeeke thy owne content, though it be with his diſcontent? thou art euery way as good as he by birth, though he now rule the land: hath not thy father ſaid, that his father was but a Captaine in the laſt Kings dayes, and by treaſon put his lawfull King to death, and ſo wanne the rule? Then Ornatus reuiue thy ſpirites, ſeeme not diſmaied with any daunger, feare not miſfortune, ſeeke to releaſe thy Loue, and venture thy life therein: for liuing thus thou ſhalt be depriued of her loue. Lenon will by force or faire meanes ouercome her, and then maiſt thou blame this delaie. The King is now ſicke, and he being dead, Lenon muſt raigne, who then may do what he liſt. Then take the aduantage of the time, and do not fruſtrate thy bleſſed hopes with ſlothfull delaie. Hauing ended this meditation, he then began to ſtudie how to performe his will: wherein he found many contrarieties. But preſently he beheld Lenon entering the Court, before whom he ſtood ſo oppoſite, that he could

not

not chuse but note him, and withall remembred howe earnestly Artesia had intreated him on the Pilgrims behalfe, whome he thought she esteemed, and therfore suddenly this cogitation arose in his fancie, to vse him as an instrument to win her loue: that calling Ornatus vnto him, he said; Pilgrime, I pray thee blame me not for forgetting to performe my promise made to Artesia as concerning thee, which I haue not neglected for want of good will, but by reason of thousands of cares that daily torment me, only procured by her vnkindnesse: but if thou wilt vndertake on my behalfe to perswade her to yeeld to my iust request, for that I thinke thou maist preuaile with her aboue any, I will not onely reward thy former kindnesse so shewen to her, but also for thy paines herein, promote thee to high dignitie. Therefore I pray thee giue consent to follow my counsel herein. Ornatus was willing to be imployed in that businesse, which fell out according to his hearts desire: and therefore made him this answere. My Noble Lord, for that I perceiue your intent is good, I will be readie to follow your directions, and do you any seruice I can: wherein I know not whether I shall proue fortunate or no: but assuring you that I will deale both faithfully and effectually in that which I shall vndertake.

Lenon was as glad as he, that he yeelded to do that which he thought least to performe: and therfore presently gaue command, that the Pilgrim onely should haue her in custodie. Artesia marueiled that her keepers were chaunged, misdoubted some intent of hard vsage, but seeing it was the Pilgrim that now had her custodie, her heart was comforted.

CHAP.

The Hiſtorie of

CHAP. XIII.

How *Ornatus* had the cuſtodie of *Arteſia*: how he diſcouered himſelfe vnto her: how *Allanus* and *Traſus* arriued in *Armenia*, and gat the King to ſend Ambaſſadors into *Phrygia*.

ORnatus at his firſt comming, found her ſitting in the darkeſt corner of the Chamber, bewayling her miſfortune, with ſalt teares bedewing her purple cheeks: her ornaments diſorderly put on, and her golde treſſes hanging carelesly downe, which added bewtie to her ſweete bewtie, and though diſordered, moſt comely. Leaning her arme vppon a Chaire, and her cheeke laide vpon the backe of her hand: when he beheld her ſitting in this diſcomfortable ſort, his hart was ready to melt with remorſe: and he breathed forth ſo bitter a ſigh, that ſhe heard the ſame, which he perceiuing came towards her with humble behauiour, ſaying. Moſt vertuous Ladie, pardon my preſumption, in preſuming thus vnmannerly to interrupt your quiet: Lenon the Prince hath appointed me to be your attendant: therefore I beſeech you, notwithſtanding I am his ſubſtitute, commaund me in any dutifull ſort, and I will moſt willingly imploy my vttermoſt indeuours to purchaſe your content. Arteſia raiſing her ſelfe from the ground, ſaid. Pilgrim I thanke you for your kinde profer, and am glad you are my keeper, for two cauſes, one, for that I truſt your vertues will not ſuffer me to be iniured, the other, for that I would heare out your diſcourſe of my deare friend Ornatus, which I was hindred from by Lenons ſuddaine finding me. Ladie, quoth he) you ſhalbe aſſured of the one, and heare more of the other, if firſt you will vouchſafe without offence, to hear my ſpeech, and ſuffer me to execute the charge Lenon hath giuen me, and I haue vndertaken. Why what is

that

that (quoth Artesia) I will not be offended: Lenon hath made knowne to me his loue, and how long, and with what constancie it is grounded, commaunding and intreating me in his behalfe to become an humble suter vnto you: he telleth me that stil you vngently disdaine him without cause, reason, or consideration. Therfore I humbly desire, both for that he is constant, a Prince, and of good and vertuous gifts, yelde to his loue, or else to satisfie me of the chiefest reasons that withhold you from the same. Pilgrim (quoth she) for that my minde perswadeth me, you in wisedome will conceiue of reason, and will be faithfull in concealing that which I shall disclose: I answere you thus. First, admit Lenon did loue me (yet by his vsage I finde the contrary) nor I cannot fancie him, for that I alreadie haue plighted my faith to another more worthie then himselfe, which is that most vertuous & kinde Gentleman Ornatus, who likewise equalleth me in affection: and therefore I should dishonour my name, breake my faith, and reape perpetuall infamy, if I should shew my selfe so inconstant. These I thinke are reasons (to a reasonable creature) sufficient, and of such force, as none can contradict: and therefore no more can be said therein. Besides were not all this so, you haue no reason to perswade me to that which I haue so often denied, and will neuer yeld vnto. Your reasons indeed (quoth he) are great, and the cause such as should no way be violated: but now you are subiect to his mercie: and he may inforce you to that which you are most vnwilling to haue done: then what remedie haue you, but rather to yelde, then indure such extremitie as he may vse? Yes quoth she) when I can preserue my selfe no longer from his lust, death shall rid me from his power, which I will execute vpon my selfe, rather then condiscend to yeld him so much as an outward shewe of fauour. Therefore I pray vse no more words tending to the breach of my faith, and furtherance of his loue, for knew you but how hatefull his name were vnto me, and howe odious to thinke of his doting loue, you would of pitie desist to torment me with the sound of that omnious monster, but rather seeke to comfort my distressed estate, and poore pining heart, al-

moſt drowned with ſorrow: being more vnfortunate, then euer any was by theſe afflictions, and the loſſe of my deere Ornatus, whoſe preſence ſhould releaſe me from this thraldome, and labo-rinth of diſcontent. Of whom if you can tell me any tidings, I be-ſeech you impart them vnto me: thereby to adde comfort to mitti-gate my care.

Ornatus was ſo rauiſhed to heare her vtter ſuch heauenly ſpæches, that he had much adoo to refraine from imbracing her: vttering theſe ſpæches. How happie is Ornatus by attaining the loue of ſo vertuous and conſtant a Ladie, worthy to be admired, eternized, and for euer honored: what comfort may theſe pleaſing words bring to his heart? What torment can he not account plea-ſure, indured for ſo ſweet a Ladies ſaketie? and what paines ſhould he refuſe to procure her ſweet content? O Arteſia, diuine Arteſia, Ornatus is not able to expreſſe his content, nor your deſert: vna-ble to recompence your kindneſſe, and euerlaſtingly bound to you in all firme bands of faithfull loyaltie. In your heart is the harbor of true loyaltie, grounded vpon vertuous loue. Then how happie is he by being inriched, and poſſeſt of ſuch a loue? His reward is greater then his paine: his pleaſure more then euer his ſorrowe could be: and his gaines a thouſand times beyond his loſſe. Why ſhuld I then conceale the truth of his ſaketie from you? With that he ſaid: Behold Arteſia, your Ornatus: with that he diſcouered himſelf vnto her, and ſhe perfectly knew him. Being almoſt ama-zed with that heauenly ſight: when with a ſweet behauiour, they both imbraced each other, intermingling their kiſſes, with teares of ioy, that in abundance diſtilled from their eyes, ſurfetting ſo much in that ſweete delight, that they were loath to part, but that fear to be eſpied, compelled them. Taking ſuch exceeding comfort in each others preſence, as is not to be expreſſt: withal, vſing many kindneſſes vſuall betwixt faithful friends, to expreſſe their ioy, her ſometimes imbracing her, & ſhe againe with a ſweet kiſſe, welcō-ming him, being ſo many, ſo kinde, and hartie, as wold aſk a skil-full deſcriptiō. At laſt hauing ſomewhat recreated themſelues, and with ſodaine ioy banniſht ſome part of their care, they thought it

time

time to studie how to procure their happinesse, least ỹ same might againe be crost by Lenon. Who by that time expected to heare from him. Therfore Ornatus said; My most deare and kind Artesia, by whose loue my life is preserued, I am not able to expresse the ioy my heart conceiueth, by this fortunate meeting, being likewise as sory to thinke of the misfortune you haue indured by my carelesse ouersight, and how to get you from this place, and from Lenons affection, whom I know to bee of such vncouth a disposition, that he will leaue no disloyall meanes vnattempted to further his intent.

Therefore in this vrgent extremitie, if you wil be contented to esteeme me as your friend, and follow my directions, I will labor all that I can to get you from this place. My true friend Ornatus (said Artesia) I haue dedicated my self to your disposition, and made my selfe all one with you, both in heart, body and minde, that whatsoeuer you would wish your self, you do to me, & whatsoeuer pleaseth you, cannot displease me, for I am your self: therfore I commit all things to your wisedome, & rest to be ruled, counselled and ordered by you, in whatsoeuer you shal think conuenient: and will do any thing you shall counsaile me vnto, both for our escape from hence, or otherwise: accounting my blisse yours, and yours mine, your care mine, and your quiet, my content.

Lenons loue is most hatefull vnto me, and iniurie to you, then what meanes can you worke to ridde me of that, and reuenge your owne wrong, performe, for my consent is readie to yeeld to any thing you shall thinke conuenient.

I most humbly thank you, said Ornatus, and first I think this is the best course, to procure my good liking with him, and to rid vs from hence, that at his next comming, you shew a little more friendly countenance vnto him, then heretofore you haue don, as shall best agree with your wisedome, and he perceiuing that my seruice hath done more for him then euer he could attaine, will not onely credit me, but also be ruled by mee in any thing I shall counsaile him vnto. Which if you will performe, commit the rest to me. My dear Ornatus, at your request I wil do this, which other-

I would neuer of my selfe yeelde vnto, for that my loue to you, and hate to him, would not suffer me so much dissemble: but I pray God deliuer me well from forth of his power, that I may in quiet enioy your sweete company. These speeches being ended, they parted with a sweete kisse, he sighing, and she for griefe shedding teares. Not long after Lenon came to Ornatus, requesting to know whether he had preuailed any thing with Artesia in his behalfe? My Lord (quoth he) I haue vsed many perswasions to her, which in some sort haue preuailed, but hereafter I do not doubt by my perswasions, but to winne her full consent: if you with wisedome will be directed by me, and not with rashnesse marre all: therefore goe in vnto her, but not too rashly, and see if she be not altered. Lenon imbraced him in his armes, saying: thou bringest me tydings of exceeding comfort, for which I will reward thee most bountifully. With that he gaue him a purse of gold: which Ornatus tooke, thinking that should be a meanes to further him, and hinder the giuer. Lenon entred Artesias chamber, vsing many kinde speeches and submisse behauiours, whome she vsed more kindly then euer she had before done, which both filled his heart with ioy, and made him according to the Pilgrims directions, more carefull of his behauiour, least by any boldnesse he might offend her, that hauing past some small time with her, he departed.

Now was Ornatus studying how to release Artesia, to further whose intent, the occasion thus fell out. Allinus and Trasus as is before said, gate shipping for Armenia, and arriued there with safetie: first directing their course to the Kings Pallace, where Allinus was most honourably entertained, being somewhat allied to the King, to whome he declared both the cause of his exile, and the iniurie don to him by Thæon, king of Phrygia. Turbulus the Armenian King, comforted him all that he could, and bad him withall, request any thing at his hands and he wold graunt it him. Allinus alledging many things to perswade Turbulus to yeeld thereto, requested him to send Ambassadours into Phrygia, either to request performance of certaine articles, or

else

else to giue him open defiance for war. The articles were these: that Allinus should be restored to his lands, and the dammage and losse he had sustained, should be repaied to the full, that his wife should be recalled from banishment, and that he should yeeld vp Artesia to Allinus, if shee should be in his custodie, and that the King and Lenon should be sworne to perform all this. Turbulus was easily wonne, and therefore presently sent foure of his Noble men as Ambassadors, to request the performance of those conditions. Who euen at that instant were landed in Phrygia, and newes thereof brought to the Court, the King being himselfe somewhat sickly, sent Lenon to meete them, and giue them entertainment: who was loth to go from Artesia sight, but assuring himselfe of the Pilgrims faith, committed her wholly to his custodie. Ornatus thought it now the fittest time to seeke to escape, but he was hindred by other of Lenons seruants, whome he had secretly appointed as ouerseers to looke into the Pilgrims action: that it was impossible for him to attempt any thing that way, but it must needs both be discouered and preuented. Ornatus seeing himselfe disappointed of his purpose that way, made Artesia acquainted with what he intended, and how he was preuented, spending the time of Lenons absence continually in her company. But hauing met the Armenian Ambassadors, brought them to the Court, where they were honourably entertained, and hauing declared their Embassage, Thæon the King, tolde them they should receiue answere within two daies.

Lenon hearing the articles, counselled his father not to yeeld to performe any such conditions, but rather to send Turbulus defiance. For (quoth he) your Maiestie are as absolutely King of Phrygia, as he of Armenia, and then what dishonour were it vnto you to stoope to his commaund, and shewe your selfe as it were affraid of his threats: for to binde your selfe to this, were to become his subiect: which would soone be published through the whole world to your dishonour. The King being ouerruled by his perswsions, gaue the Ambassadours this answere, that he ment not to performe the least of those articles they demaunded,

nor feared their Kings threats of warre, for that hee was able to deale with a mightier foe then he. Using many other words, and some of reproach, that the Armenians denouncing open warre accordingly as they were commanded, departed.

CHAP. XIIII.

How *Ornatus* staying too late in *Artesiaes* chamber, was accused by *Lenons* seruants, whom he slew. How *Allinus* with a band of Armenians landed in *Phrygia*: and how *Ornatus* was imprisoned.

THæon knew that the king of Armenia wold performe his word, and therefore gaue Lenon charge to muster vp men throughout the whole land: committing the chiefe charge of the Armie and ordering of these affaires, vnto him, who more hardie-bold, then wise, vndertooke all, and within short space, had gathered an exceeding great Armie, and furnished certaine shippes, to meete with the Armenians by Sea if it might bee possible, to vanquish them before they should land.

These troubles filled the Commons hearts with griefe, and their mouths with murmurings: for they vnderstanding that the king of Armenia did offer warre to Phrygia, in the behalfe of Allinus that was generallie beloued: there was fewe of those that were prest to those warres, but came vnwillinglie, and rather by constraint, being more readie to turne their sword points against Thæon, then against Allinus.

Ornatus likewise hearing of these warres, by his wisedome found out the opinion of the multitude, and with what vnwillingnesse they came to the warres, which when hee was in some sort assured off, he came to the Campe, and amongst all the rest

rest of his Familiars, espied Phylastes, who alwaies loued him most dearely, him hee knewe to bee of a most faithfull and constant resolution, in performing his promise, and was by Lenon appointed one of the cheefest leaders.

Ornatus finding him remote from the Camp, came to him, and after salutation, said: Sir Phylastes, I am sent vnto you by a deare friend of yours, named Ornatus, who trusteth so much in your vertues, that he is willing to put his life into your hands, which you shall hazard, in denying him one small fauour, which with safetie you may grant. First therefore, I request but your promise for your warrantie, and then I will declare what I haue in charge.

My friend quoth Phylastes thou tellest me newes of wonder, when thou sayest thou comest from Ornatus, whom I feare is long since dead: but if thou knowest the contrary, and canst resolue me thereof, I promise and sweare to performe whatsoeuer thou shalt demaund: for I am sure Ornatus knoweth that I loue him, nor maketh any doubt thereof, which if hee do, he iniurieth that loue and friendship that hath past betweene vs.

Then kinde sir (quoth he) that Ornatus is not dead, but in safetie, and I am that Ornatus, that notwithstanding my speech, make no doubt of your loue.

Phylastes beholding his countenance, knewe him well, and for ioy caught him in his armes. My deare friend Ornatus (quoth hee) I am gladde of your safetie, and accursed bee my soule if I do not any thing that you shall commaund.

I thanke you (quoth Ornatus) to enter into the tedious discourse of my afflictions, would be tedious: but in few words I will tell you all. I loued Artesia long, but found no hope nor meanes to attaine my loue, which made me disguise my selfe into womans apparell, naming my selfe Syluian, and was fortunately entertained by Arbastus, whose death I founde to bee acted by Floretus, who falling into loue with mee, told me

me for my ſake he would poyſon Artesia at the Lodge, whither he conueyed her, I fearing to haue her taken from me, and hauing wonne her loue, tolde her his intent, and conueyed her to Adellenas houſe: then Floretus and Leonteme thither, demanding her of me, whom I told I had poyſoned her, according to his counſell: we ſtriuing, were brought before Thæon, who bamiſhed me into Natolia, from whence I came backe, and by good fortune haue the keeping of Artesia in this diſguiſe, the manner I will tell you at more leiſure. Now my deare friend Phylaſtes, my deſire is to chaunge my place with you, you to haue the cuſtodie of Artesia in my Palmers weedes, and I to march into the field in your Armour, which if you graunt, you ſhall bind me vnto you for euer. Phylaſtes yelded to fulfill his requeſt, and ſo for that time they parted, appointing to meete the next day. Ornatus being come to Artesia, told her where he had bene, and what he intended, which made Artesia ſad, diſſwading him from his purpoſe in this ſort: My deare Loue, what need you venture your perſon in the daungers that are incident to war? will you leaue me heare in doubt, and not rather ſtaie with me to my comfort? there are inough beſides and two many in the field, and Phylaſtes is able to execute his owne place: then I beſeech you do not leaue me in diſcomfort, for how can I be voyd of care, when I ſhall thinke you are amongſt ſo many enemies readie to be ſlaughtered? My deare Loue quoth he that which I will do ſhalbe without any hazard at all, but ſhall procure both your and mine owne content. Then I beſeech you remit this care for my ſafetie, for I will preſerue my ſelfe from daunger for your ſake. Beſides Phylaſtes vertue is ſuch, that you need not once ſo much as thinke amiſſe of him: who I know would venture his life for my ſake. Beſides, my honor vrgeth me, reuenge of iniuries done to your ſelfe and me, and my fathers ſafetie, are reaſons ſufficient to perſwade your conſent: beſides many other cauſes more forcible then theſe, too tedious to recite. Then I beſeech you denie me not: for when it ſhall be knowne that my father was in armor in the field, and I in this place not regarding to aide him, it will turne to

my

my great dishonour: and those which before did esteeme well of me, will then begin to hate me: then let not your doubt and true loue to me, hinder my determination: for on that mine honour, your safetie, and my fathers life dependeth. Artesia seeing she could by no meanes disswade him, thought not to let him depart so suddenly, but clasping her tender armes about his necke, a thousand times kist his lippes, whilest with her abundant teares she bedewed his manly cheekes. Ornatus toke great sorrow at her heauinesse, and delight in her imbracings, that the contrarieties of his conceits, were exceeding: pleasure it selfe seeming more pleasant intermingled with care, and care a pleasure to be endured with such delight. Artesia was loth to let Ornatus depart that night, for that she deemed he should be in daunger the next day, and he as vnwilling to leaue her in sorrow: she on the one side sollacing her selfe in his company, and he by her kindnesse making him forget to depart, that before they were aware night was come and wel spent, and Ornatus then bethinking himselfe, thought it was too late to depart. And Artesia hearing him make a motion to be gone, desired him to staie. And yet my deare Ornatus (quoth she) do not indaunger your selfe for my sake, for should Lenons seruants finde you here, it might redound to our great disquiet. Ornatus likewise well considering the inconuenience, toke his leaue of her, and left her shedding abundance of teares. Ornatus being gone, found the seruants awake, and watching his comming out, one of them saying; Pilgrim what maketh thee so sawcie as to court my maisters Loue? Is this a fit time of the night to be in her chamber? my Lord shall vnderstand your behauiour, and what familiaritie is betwixt you: we take you to be some counterfet, else would not such behauiours passe betwixt you as we haue beheld. Therefore here shall you staie, vntill we giue him knowledge of your doings and fidelitie: with that they locke fast the doore, not suffering him to goe out for them. Ornatus by that perceiued that they had seene the kindnesse betwixt him and Artesia, which he knew if Lenon should vnderstand, he would finde out what he was: these thoughts troubled

his heart exceedingly, that he was aſſured vnleſſe he could bee rid of them, there was no meanes to eſcape death, if Lenon ſhould know him. With theſe ſtudies he ſat a good while ſilent, till hee perceiued them inclinde to ſleepe, and caſting his eye aſide, eſpied a bill hanging by the wall, to which he ſtole ſecretly, and taking hold of the ſame, he drew towards them, entring into theſe meditations. And ſhall I now commit murder, and indanger my ſoule by ſo hainous a ſin? what will Arteſia ſay if ſhe know thou art ſo bloodily bent? and that thy heart is ſo hard, as to ſhead thine own countrey mens blood? Ornatus be wel aduiſed before thou do this deed, and bethink of ſome other meane: auoid the danger thou art readie to fall into. Other meanes Ornatus, yea but what other meanes haſt thou, none at all, doſt thou not ſee how they haue betrayed thee, and made thee priſoner, what then needeſt thou make a queſtion, to ſaue thy ſelfe, and by their deathes preſerue thine owne life? which they liuing, will be indangered, and being once done, thou art ſafe, but by delay, thy owne life may periſh. With that lifting vp his armes with more then wonted force, he ſmote the one on ẏ head, & beate out his braines: wherewith ẏ other began to awake: but in his awaking, he ſtroke him ſo ful on ẏ breſt, that the bill pierſt his heart, and he laye breathleſſe ſprawling in his gore. This done, Ornatus foũd a vawte, and into the ſame he conueied their dead bodies, purpoſing neuer to reueale what hee had don. Then returning, he bethought himſelf of keies of ẏ doores that he had thrown into ẏ vawte with their bodies, deuiſing how to get out, without ſuſpition of the deed he had done, ẏ he was inforced to take the bill, & by maine force, and often ſtriuing, wrong aſunder the locks. His minde being exceedingly affrighted with theſe cares, he entred into Arteſias chãber, to ſee whether he had diſquieted her or no with the noiſe, her he foũd in bed, & faſt aſleep with the light ſtill burning by her beds ſide, her breſt vncouered downe to the waſte, and nothing to ſhrowde her from his perfect view, but the ſingle ſheete, that lay carelefly caſt ouer her tender bodie, her armes caſt to either ſide of the bed, and her head leaning on the one ſide, with ſo ſweete an aſpect, as would haue ra-

niſhed

nished a thousand beholders. Ornatus heart was reuiued to behold this swæt sight, that the remembrance therof had bannished all remembrance of his troubles past, and affected his heart with incomparable delight: that he stood like one amazed, to behold her swæt beawties, and to take a surfetting view of those her perfections, so amiably laid forth. Artesia sodainly awaking blusht to see him so nie, yet therwith more comforted then dismaied she caught the clothes and couered her selfe, whilest hee folding his hand in hers, desired pardon for his boldnesse: but she viewing him well, beheld his pale and gastly countenance, which draue her into feare, and raysing her selfe vpright in her bed, caught him in her armes, asking what he ayled, to looke so pale: my deare Artesia (quoth he) since I parted from you, I haue indured great danger, and past through a hel of calamities, which now I fear not. With that he let his head fal into her swæt bosome, and there made the period of his speech, feeling her tender heart pant, with the motions of her troubled spirits. In which pallace he rested it a good while, whilest she with her soft hãd curled his haire, & with swæt kisses, mollified his lips. Vsing many other familiarities, & swæte fauors, proceeding from the depth of kinde loue, wherwith Ornatus was so rauished, that he not onely took heauenly comfort therin, but also desired a further content, & possession of her loue, which he neuer before asked, nor thoght she wold grant, but being hartned by the assurance of her loue, he vsed more bolde behauiour, which shee permitted: but at last growing more bolde then shee thought conuenient for her modestie to permit, with a kinde and louelie behauiour, she both blamed and hindred him, but the motions of affection so far preuailed with them both, that he desired, and she inwardlie yeelded, though outwardly shee refused, but his behauiour, her owne loue, the present occasion, so fitte opportunitie, their hearts vnitie, and other swæte inticements, so farre preuailed, that she yeelded vp her vnspotted body, & pure chastitie, to his possession, and the impression of his attempt, dissolued her Virgin zoane, giuing full interests of her heart, loue and bodie, to him, that pursued the possession of those riches, with earnestnesse: Sometimes blushing, sometime shriking, and yet yeelding,

denying, and yet graunting, willing and vnwilling: yet at laſt, ſhe gaue that ſhe could not recall, and let him poſſeſſe her ſpotleſſe virginitie, which being paſt, her heart panted with the motion, and ſhe felt her ſences ſadde, a little repenting, yet not altogither ſorie: ſighing for ſadneſſe, and yet not ſad at all: whilſt he bathed himſelfe in that hauen of bliſſe, paſſing the reſt of that night in ſuch vnſpeakable pleaſure as cannot be deſciphered. Early the next morning he aroſe, taking his farewell with a ſweete adue, leauing Arteſia ſad for ſorrow, and lamenting his abſence, but yet with earneſt and heartie prayers inuocating his happie ſucceſſe: bathing her heart in luke warme teares, thinking ſhe had bene too prodigall of her fauours to him, and yet eſteeming him worthie of a thouſand times greater gift, if ſhe had it in her poſſeſſion, with repentance reioycing though deeming her ſelfe metamorphoſe and other then ſhe was wont to be, being glad ſhe had no more company to conuerſe withall, leaſt her guilt ſhould make her bluſh, and ſo bewray her fault. And when Phœbus began to lighten the Chamber with his ſplender, ſhe hid her ſelfe within the bed, as if the day-light had accuſed her of that ſhe had done in the darke. Ornatus being come to the Campe, found out Phylaſtes, and brought him to Arteſias lodging, by the way inſtructing him how to order their buſineſſe when Lenon ſhould come. Where being entered, Phylaſtes hauing ſaluted Arteſia, and a while conuerſt about their affaires, they chaunged their habits. Ornatus with many a ſorrowfull ſigh taking his leaue of her, whilſt her heart bled warme drops of blood. Ornatus againe toke his leaue of Arteſia, and entered the Campe, framing himſelfe to ſuch kinde of behauiour, thet he was of all taken for Phylaſtes. Newes came that the Armenians were landed, and had brought their forces within a dayes march of Thæons Campe, the king aſſembled all the chiefe Leaders togither, to appoint euery man his charge, and conſult what to do. Ornatus in Phylaſtes ſtead, had vnder his charge foure thouſand men, whom by his owne ſeeking he was appointed to conuoy into a wood that ſtood fitly to offend the enemy, and the reſt appointed to other

places

places that seemed for most advantage. Ornatus having his souldiers alone, thought it time to execute what he intended, and therefore called unto him such as were Captaines and chiefe under him, uttering these speeches. Fellow souldiers, I would willingly utter my mind which is troubled in some sort with remembrance of the injuries Allinus hath already causelesly induced, against whom now we addresse our selves to fight: wherein in my mind we deale unjustly: for he was never traytor to his countrey, nor now commeth to disturbe the land with oppression, but only to claime his own inheritance and libertie, which our selves do permit: therefore I thinke it best before we drawe our weapons, to consider against whom we drawe them, and whome we offend, one that loveth us, his Countrey and people, and would not willingly shead a drop of our blood. Now if I could find a remedie for all this, which standeth with equitie, would you follow my directions? With that they all at once said, they would be ruled by him. Then he said, That on that is now our King, destroyed all his familie, and such as are in any degree neare to him in blood, the last of whom is Allinus, whose utter ruine he now seeketh, not by justice, but that neither he nor any of his progenie should hinder his succession. Therefore if you will follow my counsell, when the armies are met, let us not offer to offend the Armenians, but keepe our selves from fight, untill Lenon affrighted therewith, and fearing the peoples revolt, will peraduenture yeeld to performe the articles the Armenian Embassadors demaunded: and by this meanes shall wee restore Allinus to his right, saue the effusion of blood, and yet not wrong our reputation. The people hearing his speeches, generally gaue their consent: crying, Phylastes, Phylastes. With that Ornatus bestowed the golde among them that Lenon had before given him, which prevailed with the multitude exceedingly. Ornatus having effected this according to his desire, went unto the Armenian Campe, desiring to speake with Allinus the Generall, to whom he declared what he intended in his behalfe, not discovering him to be other then Phylastes. For which Allinus yeelded him many

hartie thanks. Whileſt Ornatus was abſent, a Captaine named Ortonus, drawne by deſire of reward, and aboue the reſt fauouring Lenons partie, ſtole from the wood, and comming into the Campe to Lenon, bewrayed what Phylaſtes intended, and how that hee was now gone to the Armenian Campe, to confer with Allinus.

Lenon hearing that, thought it beſt, not to ſend for him by warrant, but amongſt the reſt, to aſſemble him to councell: and to that effect, ſent a Herault. Ornatus being returned, had knowledge of the generall aſſemblie, and willinglie went, little ſuſpecting what Lenon intended, and being entred the Cãp, and Lenons tent, he was before all the eſtates, by a Herault arreſted of high treaſon. Ornatus thẽ thought his intent was bewraied, demanding what they could lay to his charge: Whereupon Ortonus before them all, declared what he had done, which he could not denie, vpon which accuſation, he was preſently ſent to the Court, and there impriſoned.

CHAP. XV.

How *Ornatus* was deliuered out of priſon, and carried *Arteſia* from the court. How *Ornatus* in a ſingle combat ouercame *Lenon*, and cauſed *Thaons* flight. And how *Arteſia* to eſcape *Thaon*, fled to *Adellenaes* houſe.

THe newes of Ornatus impriſonment was ſoone blazed through the whole camp, court, and country, at laſt came to Arteſias hearing, who with exceeding lamentations bewailed his miſfortune, but Phylaſtes comming vnto her, cõforted her all that he could, promiſing to ſet Ornatus at libertie if quoth he) at Lenons nert comming, you will requeſt his ſignet, to keepe as his warrant for your ſafetie. The nert day the armies ſhould meete, and therefore Lenon that night viſited Arteſia, finding her very ſad, demanding the cauſe thereof: my Lord (quoth ſhe) how can

can I be otherwise then sad, when I am ready euery houre to fall into more miserie, not knowing whither your life may be indangered by these warres, and I thereby subiect to some misfortune. Therefore in signe you loue me, grant me your signet, to bee my warrant and priuiledge, against all iniurie ỹ may be offered me: with ỹ she kist him, which she had neuer before done, not drawne by any good will, but with desire to helpe Ornatus. Lenon heart was so ouercome, that he presently gaue her the same, staying sometime with her, intreating her consent to his loue. He was no sooner gone, but Phylastes taking the ring of Artesia, went vnto the place where Ornatus was, and comming to the Gayler tolde him that he must deliuer Phylastes to his custodie, shewing him the Princes signet, as his warrant, the gailer seing the same, and knowing that the Pilgrim was of great credit & trust with Leō, made no doubt, but presently deliuered Ornatus vnto him: both departing together, to Artesia, who seeing her beloued so fortunately deliuered, shead teares of ioy for his escape. After salutations in the kindest sort past, Ornatus declared what he intended, and how he was betrayed by Ortonus. Phylastes then counselled Ornatus, that night to conuey Artesia from thence, vnto some place of better securitie, who sometimes thought to carrie her to Adellenaes house, but he thought Lenon would misdoubt ỹ place, at last he concluded to conuey her to her castle, where Arbastus her father dwelt, which was still kept to her vse, by certaine of her fathers seruants. Both Artesia & Phylastes liked this well, and therefore leauing the court, they departed thitherwards, Artesia not wonted to trauell, could scarcely indure to holde out, but by their help, they arriued there at midnight, & knocking, awaked the porter, who looking ouer the battlemēts, demanded who was below at that vnreasonable time of the night? My friend quoth Ornatus, it is Artesia that commeth in time of her most need, for harbor in this place. The Porter vieuing her well by the bright light Scynthia, knew her, and calling vp the rest of his fellowes, came running down, and opened the gate, where he and the rest, receiued her in with great ioy.

Ornatus

Ornatus was glad of this happie eſcape, but yet exceeding ſad that he could not aſſiſt his father againſt Lenon, but that he muſt perforce be abſent from his reſcue, which filled his hart with ſuch care, that all that night he could take no reſt, and though he enioyed Arteſias company without controll, he could haue no reſt or quiet to his diſtempered thoughts: that Phylaſtes demanded the cauſe of his ſadneſſe. My aſſured friend Phylaſtes (quoth he) the remembrance of my fathers eſtate, and feare of his miſhap, maketh me thus ſad, and griefs exceeding torment poſſeſſeth me, that I cannot be preſent to aide him againſt Lenon, that by cowardly malice, not with valour, will ſeeke his ruine before any others. O were I but preſent to defend him, though I effected none, my heart would be at quiet. Arteſia hearing his ſpeeches ſaid; Good Ornatus do not againe hazard your ſelfe, as you lately did: for had not fortune and Phylaſtes wiſedome aſſiſted vs, both your life, and with it mine, had bene caſt away. My deare Arteſia (quoth he) that miſfortune hath taught me wiſedome, and by remembring it, I will learne to eſchue ſuch miſchiefes, and know whom I truſt: therefore I beſeech you, grant I may once againe go to do my dutie in ayding my father, which I will now do without daunger, for that I wil make none priuie to that I intend, nor attempt more then I am able to performe. Arteſia ſeeing how fully he was bent to goe, preferd his will before her owne deſire, knowing her dutie not to contradict, but to counſell him, and therefore ſaid; My deare Ornatus my dutie bindeth me to conſent, but my loue willeth me to denie: feare of your miſhap maketh me vnwilling, but will to fulfill your deſire, maketh me giue an vnwilling conſent: onely let me requeſt this, that you will take Phylaſtes in your company, and leaue me to the cuſtodie of my ſeruants, whoſe fidelitie I am aſſured of: for hauing him with you, his aide and counſell may much auaile to preſerue your life, which if you loſe (as heauens forbid) with the ſame ſhall mine expire: for it is impoſſible Arteſia ſhould breathe, Ornatus being breathleſſe. Ornatus with a few teares that by exceeding greefe were wrong from his heart, participated her kindneſs.

First

First requesting the seruants to be carefull of her good, and then without delaie, both furnishing himselfe and Phylastes, with rich armor and horse, of which there was great choyce in that Castle: and for that the day began to appeare, they thought it time to depart, lest their comming from thence might be discouered. There might one behold sorrow at parting in his right forme, hart-breaking sighes, breathing sad farewels, and sorrowfull teares at so sad a parting, when their lips were parted, their hands still fast, their hands disioynd, then their voyces oftentimes uttering that woful word, farewell: and when they were past hearing, their eyes unwillingly leaning each others sight, he being without looking backe, and she within loking after, so long as she could perceiue the glimering glance of his bright armor, and he being past sight of her, with watry eyes beholding the place of her abode, thus parted they, as if they had parted neuer to meete. Drawing nigh the armies, they beheld them met and in hot skirmish, standing still a good space to see to whether partie it was likely the victorie would incline: and in the ende they beheld the Armenians begin to retrait, and Lenon with Thæon his father in the midst of the throng, making exceeding slaughter, and proud of their deemed conquest: which set Ornatus heart on fire, that he rusht amongst the thickest of his Countrey men, yet not once offering a blow, nor sheading a drop of the blod he loued, but onely making way to come to Lenon, which made them not offer to stay his passage: but admiring what he was, let him go free; after whom Phylastes hasted. The souldiers seing these two neiue come knightes offend none, admired what they should be, not one of them all offering a blow, because they offered none. By this time Ornatus was come to the place where Lenon was, who euen then not before had met Allinus, betwixt whom many blowes and some wounds were giuen and receiued, but Allinus had the worst by reason of his age. Ornatus knowing his father by his armour, came betwixt them with his sword drawne, saying: Lenon staie thy hand, let age goe free, and let thy youth cope with me, that am come to challenge thee before both the Armies; and

therfore as thou art the kings son, a knight, and honorest arms, giue order by thy Herault, to stay the furis of the battailes, till thou and I haue tryed our valours, otherwise this knight and I haue vowed to hunt thee from place to place, and neuer giue ouer, vntill we haue spilt thy blood.

Lenon hearing this champions proud challenge, said: If thou art a knight, a gentleman as I am, and canst shew wherein I haue wronged thee, I will answere thee, otherwise know, that I scorne thee, although I know my selfe of sufficient strength to abate thy haughty presumption, were it neuer so great. With that two heraults were sent from either general, to part the souldiers, which done, Ornatus before the open assemblie said. Lenon, first I say I am a Gentleman, as absolute and as good as thy selfe: Prince I am none, neither art thou by right, but that by tyrannie and vsurpation thou holdest the same. I come as Artesias champion, to challenge thee of disloyaltie, as the outrages thou hast committed, by detayning her libertie, do manifest. I challenge thee for doing iniustice against Allinus, whom thou withholdest frō his right, by trecherous malice. I challenge thee, as a partaker of Arbastus death, for that thou sufferest and vpholdest his murtherer Floretus, ꝑ hath deserued death. I challenge thee for oppressiō laid vpon this whole land. And lastly, for detaining Ornatus liuing, who neuer was impeached of treason: and therfore, if thou darest answere my challenge, I am here readie, otherwise, I here pronounce thee for a coward, & miscreant, not worthie to bear arms. Lenon made this replie. Being accused by a stranger, without cause, I regard it not, and being iudge my selfe, will not by thee be abridged: but for thy proude challenge, I will answer thee, as little regarding what thou canst do, as thou boastingly dost vant of thy valor. Therfore euen now before I depart, I will without delay, abate thy haughtinesse, though thy accusations are manifestly false: for I both loue and esteeme Artesia as dearelie as I do my selfe: my title to the crowne, is iust: for Allinus he is both a traitor at home, and abroad: first in causing his complices to take my fathers life: and lastlie, for bringing these Armenian

bands

bands, to destroy this country. For Floretus pardon, it is mercie, not iustice. As for oppression don to Ornatus, all know, I never iustified him: but if he take the iustice that is don to his traiterous father, as done to him, I cannot helpe that: but reuenge it thou, since thou art his champion. Ornatus had much adoo to stay to heare out his speech, which galled him to the very hart, that without speaking a word more, he smote at Lenon, and Lenon with courage, answered his blowes, beginning a most fierce and forceable incounter, and with like furie continuing the same, till both had receiued many wounds, and their steeds began to be furious and madde, with the smart of some strokes that rusht their right ayme.

Ornatus calling to remẽbrance, first the iniuries he had receiued, and ẏ Lenon and none else, could dispossesse him of Artesias loue, and many other wrongs he had done him & his parents, thought now to reuenge them all, and dispossesse Thæon of the Crowne, by Lenons death, reuiued his spirits with such courage, that he began with renued strength to assaile Lenon, who euen then, began to faint, & would haue yelded, but that shame withheld him. Which when Ornatus perceiued, he thought at once to ende the strife, that with one forceable blow, he gaue him so deep a wound on the right arme, where the armor was broken away, that he let fall his sword and fell senceleslie in his horse necke. Thæon perceiuing his sonne in that daunger, with his guard came rushing in & rescued him from Ornatus sword, which otherwise, had parted his head frõ his bodie. With this, both the armies ioyned battell again: the Armenians with new courage rushing vpon their enemies, whose harts began to faile, seeing Lenon so neer death, which made such a confusion among thẽ, that they were readier to flie or yeld to Allanus, then to fight it out: that of a sodaine, the Armenians had slaine an infinit number of them, and all ẏ earth was dyed to a purple colour, with their blood. Ornatus heart was vexed to see so much of his countries blood shead, that hee intreated Phylastes to perswade ẏ souldiers to giue ouer, and himselfe rode betwixt the two armies with a Herault, desiring them to

ſtaie their furie for a while. Long it was before they would giue ouer, but at laſt by the Drums and Trumpet ſound, hauing called backe the Armenians, Ornatus placing himſelfe in the midſt of his Countrey men, that a multitude might heare him, ſaide. Renowmed people of Phrygia, heare my ſpæch that am tormentmented to ſee ſo much of your blood ſhead, the effuſion whereof, I ſeeke by all meanes to ſtop, hauing as you ſee for the loue I beare to you, not lifted my hand againſt any of you, but onely Lenon: the cauſes that vrge me to challenge him, is the manifeſt wrongs he and his father hath done to your ſelues, this Countrey, and all the Nobilitie: for the true teſtimony whereof, let euery one inwardly examine his owne conſcience, and they will not deny my words, but finde themſelues exceedingly greeued with his oppreſſion. Do you not ſee what deſtruction he hath brought vpon this land? Are not almoſt all the Nobilitie ſlaine and deſtroyed? Are not your liberties, goods and friends, taken from you? Is not the whole land in an vproare, and euery one driuen from his quiet at home, to venture his life in the fielde, and all this for ſatisfaction of his will and ſelfe commaund, not grounded vpon lawe nor iuſtice? Examine your conſciences, is he your lawfull King? did he not murther your lawfull King, onely to make you his vaſſels? Againe, doth Allinus ſeeke to do his Countrey wrong? doth he come to oppreſſe you? doth he ſeeke to abuſe your libertie? No: he onely commeth to claime his poſſeſſions, by iniuſtice taken from him: he commeth as vrged by griefe, not to liue as a baniſhed man, being himſelfe, his wife, children and familie, driuen to liue in miſerie and ſlauerie, for the ſatisfaction of his luſt. Then I beſeech you good ſouldiers, conſider well what you do, whom you defend, a traytor: and whom you reſiſt, a deare friend, that loueth and tendereth your liues as deare as his owne: whoſe eſtate the Armenians pitie, to whom he was neuer gratious: but his own Countrey mens harts are hardned againſt him, repaying cruelties for his loue, and reſiſtance to withhold his right. I could alledge ſo many reaſons to diſſwade you from following Thæons will, as would aſke a tedious recitall, but I know you are of wiſdome

to

to conceiue the right: your hearts mercifull to pitie him, and your mindes apt to doo iustice: then giue him ouer, discharge your mindes of care, and disburthen your selues of his oppression. I stand here as an Aduocate to pleade for Allinus right, that hath indured too much wrong. I stand here as Artesias Champion, that is imprisoned by Lenon, abused by Lenon; and withheld from her libertie by Lenon. I stand here to intreat you saue your owne liues, to preserue your libertie, to execute iustice, and to doo Allinus right. Then I beseech you, laie aside your armes taken in defence of wrong, and turne your hearts to pitie innocencie: whereby you shall saue many of your liues, shewe your selues men that are ruled by wisedome, not by rage: and purchase libertie, freedome and peace, for euer. Then you that beare the true harts of Phrygians, follow me, and giue ouer to follow that vsurper, and staie such ruine and destruction as are like to ensue by your refusall: and let the rightfull heire possesse the Crowne, who will loue you, cherish you, and seeke his Countries peace. The peoples harts were so altered with his speeches, that many came running to him, crying, Allinus, Allinus: and the rest that were not yet resolued, stood in a doubt what to doo. Whilst Duke Ternus commaunded his forces to follow him, who withdrew himselfe from the Campe, espying so fit occasion, determined likewise not to follow Thæon longer, whom he neither hated nor loued, but yet esteemed as vnlawfull vsurper of that kingdome: and rather desiring Allinus should possesse his right of inheritance, then any way willingly contradicting the same: being as many others were, forced to come to those warres, fearing Thæons displeasure, who cared not in what sort his will was performed. Ternus therefore drew himselfe apart with this policie, that if Thæon preuailed, yet he could not impeach him: and if Allinus had the best, yet he could not alledge that Ternus withstood him, thinking it the greatest poynt of wisedome to keepe himselfe vpright. Thæon had no sooner conueyed his sonne to his Tent, and with much adoo recouered him to his senses, but there came a messenger posting from the Court, with newes that Phylastes was

two dayes since escaped out of prison. And presently after him, an other brought newes that Artesia with the pilgrim, was fled, but no man could tell whither. Lenon hearing the newes, became almost mad, and raged so extreamelie, that his wounds burst into fresh bleeding: and to fill vp his heart with sorrow and veration, an other messenger from the campe, came running in, crying, Flie Thæon, flie, we are betrayed to the enemie, the leaders captaines and souldiers are revolted, and the enemie is neare at hãd to surprise thee: Flie and saue thy life, for thine own subiects haue left thee, and refused thy government. Thæon was so amazed and terrified with feare, that without regard of Lenons life, he fled to saue himselfe. Every one saving those that were fled with Thæõ with haste running to their revolting fellows to saue themselues. This newes was brought to Allinus, who hearing the same, and being past feare of Thæons rage, sent a Herault to Turnus, to know whether he were his friend, or still continued those bands to resist him as his foe: who returned this answere, that he was never foe to him, but alwaies wisht his good. Afterwards dismissing his souldiers, and sending every one well rewarded, to his owne house, himselfe comming backe to his Tent, where he met Allinus, whome he kindly saluted. Thither were assembled the chiefe states of the land, to whom Allinus said. My lords, since Thæon & Lenon are fled, & none left but your honours in place of iustice, with right and equalitie to minister the same to such as haue sustained wrong: I as one that haue abode the greatest losse, commit my cause to your wisedoms: you know what iniuries I haue indured by his malice, onelie for that I sought to set Artesia at libertie, that was by Lenon imprisonned, and badly vsed: requesting nothing of you, but that which by right is mine, and belongeth to me by inheritance. The nobles with a generall assent, granted that he should enioy his former possessions: and that his losse should be repaid out of the kings treasure.

Ornatus standing by, said: Most noble peeres, you stand here debating matters, whilest the cause of your woe is living, and farre inough from yeelding to that you grant, who now per-

aduenture

aduenture is muttering newe forces, to make frustrate what you intend, and to worke reuenge. Which to preuent, giue me your consents to pursue him, and he being once taken, then may you without controll, either establish him, or chuse a new, that shuld by right be your king.

To this all the nobles gaue consent, and Ornatus with three thousand horsemē, followed Theon who first took the greene Fortresse, with fiue hundred men, who continued firme, wonne by great rewards, but hearing of the Armenians approach, vnder the conduct of the stranger, that slue Lenon, in the night hee fled with a hundreth of his nearest friends and allies, to Arbastus castle, where he thought to liue secure and vnknowne, for that he thought his enemies would least of all suspect that place. He arriued there in the dead time of the night: but knocking, was denied entrance, which made him almost desperate, that hee assayed to enter by force, and preuailed so, that hee gat in with the rest of his company, making fast the gates againe, after them.

Artesias seruants knowing what he was, some ranne one way, some another, to hide themselues from him. One amongst the rest, came running into Artesias chamber, declaring to her what had befallen, & how that the king had taken the castle. Artesia hauing not yet heard of Lenons death: nor what successe Ornatus had in the campe, wringing her hands made this lamentation. Twice hath my deare Ornatus left me in this danger, and hazarded his owne life, hoping to attaine good successe, but cruell fortune hath still crost his laudable attempts, & left both him and my poore selfe, in extreame miserie. Now am I assured he is take prisoner againe, and my selfe am like not long to go free, for I am sure the king hath heard of my being heere, which maketh him come thus late. Well, might I but be made prisoner in the same place my Ornatus lyeth inthralled, that I might yet enioy his sight, then should I thinke my selfe happie in miserie, but I feare me too much, they will priuilie murther him, and neuer let me knowe thereof, whereby I shall bee held with long

frustra-

fruſtrated hope to ſee him, and in the end be deceiued. Neuer was poore mayden brought to ſuch miſerie, nor I the true loue neuer croſt with ſuch bitter aduerſities, which both he for me, and I for him, haue bene continually ſubiect vnto euer ſince our firſt acquaintance. As ſhe was ſtill continuing her laments, the ſame ſeruant whoſe name was Thriſtus, came running in again, ſaying: Dear miſtreſſe, I haue found a meanes for your eſcape from hence vneſpied, if you will attempt the ſame, which is without any daunger at all. Neuer tell me what it is (quoth ſhe) but be thou my guide and I will follow thee: for I will attempt any thing to eſcape from him. Then (quoth he) feare nothing, but follow me. Then tooke he her by the hand, leading her out of that roome into a darke entrie, where by reaſon of the night, there appeared not the leaſt glimſe of light, and through that into many back roomes and vnfrequented places of the Caſtle, vntil he came to a poſtern gate which he opened, and after he was out, ſhut the ſame faſt againe, ſaying. Now miſtreſſe you are out of the Caſtle, and paſt feare of the King, who litle knoweth you can paſſe out this way, therefore I pray tell me whither I ſhall conduct you? I thanke thee good Thriſtus quoth ſhe, for this thy good aſſiſtance, for which I will one day be thankfull vnto thee, and now I pray thee direct me to Adellenas houſe, who is my faithfull friend, and wil rather die then diſcouer me. This ſaid, they began their iourney, which was but three myles, and therefore they ſone ouercame the ſame, euen by the mornings light arriuing at the wiſhed place. Adellena hearing ſome knocke at the gate, commaunded her mayd to to riſe to ſee who it was, the Damſel comming downe, before ſhe would open the gate aſked who was there? Arteſia knowing her voyce, ſaid; It is Arteſia, good Anna let me in. With that the Damſel opened the gate, conducting her to her miſtreſſe Chamber, who eſpying her, was ſo ſurpraſed with ioy, that ſhe imbracing her, ſhed abundance of teares, ſaying: Welcome my deare Arteſia, I was afraid I ſhould neuer haue ſeene you againe, you haue bene ſo long time abſent. Indeed (quoth ſhe) I haue bin long abſent from thee, though ſtil not far from thee: but I haue newes of

importance

importance to tell thee, which I will forbeare to speake of vntill I haue refreshed my selfe, for care and trauell hath made me exceedingly weary. Then Adellena brought her into a sweet and pleasant Chamber, where she laide her downe to rest.

CHAP. XVI.

How *Ornatus* surprised *Thæon* in *Arbastus* Castle, who was slaine by one of his owne seruants.

ORnatus hearing the King had taken ỹ greẽ Fortresse, beset the same round with horsemen, who tooke certain of the Kings followers, that being brought before him, told him the King was fled with some hundred in his company to Arbastus Castle, which when he heard, without delay he rode thither, fearing leaste Thæon getting in and finding Artesia, should offer her some iniurie: he was no sooner come, but he found it so: for he was denied entrance, nor could see one of Artesias seruants whom he left as keepers of the same, which so much disquieted his heart, that he could not tell what to doe: thinking it best to intreate Thæon kindly, least he should seeke reuenge against Artesia, though she were innocent, and no way to be blamed for any thing: and such a multitude of contrarious feares arose in his fancies, that he seemed therewith metamorphosed. Which Phylastes sone perceiued, and comming to him said; How now Ornatus, what hath feare taken away your courage? O my friend Phylastes (quoth he) Thæon is within, and thereby possest of Artesia, whose minde is so far from the least thought of vertue, that no doubt he will seeke reuenge on her.

Feare not that (quoth he) but summon him to the walles by the sound of a Trumpet, and will him to yeeld himselfe, and stand to the curtesie of his Nobles, and promise him with safetie to conduct him thither. Ornatus allowed his counsell, and therefore commaunded a Trumpet to sound a parley, and thereupon one from

the King appeared on the walles, demanding what he would haue. To whom Ornatus ſaid: Tell Thæon the King, that wee come to him from the Peeres of the Realme. The meſſenger told the King what he ſaid. Wherupon Thæon came in ſight, demanding what he would haue.

Quoth he, I would haue you yéeld, leaſt by reſiſtance, you procure a greater miſchiefe to your ſelfe, then is by vs pretended. Suppoſe I ſhould yéeld (quoth he) how would you vſe me? Like a king (quoth Ornatus) honourable. I haue found ſaid he, ſo ſmall cauſe to truſt you, that it were fondneſſe to put my life within compaſſe of your mercie: therefore I will keepe my ſelfe where I am, not doubting ere many dayes, to haue ſo many friends, as ſhall both chaſe thee, and the Armenians from the walles, and ſo out of this countrey: which he ſpake vpon the confidence he had in certaine friendes that had promiſed to gather new forces, but meant neuer to performe the ſame.

Ornatus was much troubled in his minde, to thinke what was become of *Arteſia*, marualling that he ſpake not of her, nor could heare of any of her ſeruants, that might giue him knowledge how ſhe fared. But ſéeing his faire words would not preuaile, ſaid. Thæon, ſince thou refuſeſt the curteous proffer I make thee, know that my intent is altered, and ſince thou wilt not by faire meanes yéeld, I will inforce thee to ſubmit thy ſelfe to my mercie, or abide my rigour: for not all the friends thou canſt finde ſhall ſhelter thee from my reuenge: for I haue ſworne thy death, and nothing but that ſhall ſatiſfie me. Which vowe I will once againe reuoke, if you will yéeld without inforcement, and deliuer mee *Arteſia* in ſafetie, that is in that Caſtle. *Arteſia* (quoth Thæon) had I her in my cuſtodie, I would be reuenged on her, becauſe thou wiſheſt her ſafetie, but ſhe is far inough from mee, therefore thou takeſt her in vaine at my hands, who would as readily deliuer her to thee, as thou couldeſt aſke, for that I ſteeme her not. But for my ſelfe, it ſhall neuer bee ſaide, my minde would ſtoupe to baſe ſubmiſſion, nor that a king yéelded to a ſlaue and baſe vaſſall as thou art. Doſt thou think that a royall minde

can

can put on so degenerate a habite: no I tell thee, whatsoeuer thou art, I had rather by inforcement die, then by submission liue: but be thou aduised what thou doest, nor stay long before these walles, for there are so many whetting their swords, and putting on Armour in my defence, as ere the mornings sun arise, will feare thee from hence. Ornatus heart could not indure these braues, and being withall vered for feare that Artesia should sustaine some iniurie, thought spedily to worke reuenge. Which by Phylastes counsaile, he remitted vntill it were night, that then vnawares they might by some meanes get entrance into the Castle, and so surprise them.

Ornatus thinking to walk alone by himselfe, to breath forth in sighes some part of the feare that possest his heart, and withall, determining to viewe the Castle how he might with conuenience get into the same without destroying it, for that it belonged to his beloued, he espied the posterne gate, whereat thrusting, it presently flewe open, which way as yet, neyther Thæon nor any of his company had found. Ornatus heart was glad he had found so good a meanes to accomplish his will, putting the same to againe, came to Phylastes and told him thereof. Then both of them presently agreed to enter that way and surprise them: conueying a hundreth of the best Souldiers secretly vnder the wall vnto that Posterne, and placing the rest in the open view of the Castle, as if none of them had bene wanting.

Ornatus and Phylastes entered, and after them the rest, who passing along through the walle rowes, at last came to the place where they had left Artesia, but found her not, and such successe had they in their attempt, that Ornatus comming behinde Thæon, smote him with his hand on the backe, before he had any knowledge of his approach. Thæon therewith starting, and loking backe, was amazed, but running forward drewe out his sword, crying; My friends, saue and defend your selues: wherewith those that were about him drewe their swordes: To whom Ornatus said.

Powre now vsurping King, where are those mightie forces

ſhould chaſe me hence? will you yet yéeld, or ſtand to the tryall by fight? I yéeld (quoth Thæon) but much againſt my will, for had friends dealt faithfully, I had not bene left in this miſery. But ſince fortune ſo much fauoureth thée, as to make me thy priſoner, vſe me well for that I am a king, and to none but thy ſelfe am inthralled. Tell me (quoth Ornatus) what is become of Arteſia, that not many dayes ſince I left in this place? I ſawe her not (quoth Thæon) nor know I where ſhe is, onely I found certaine ſeruants in this place whom I haue put to death, leaſt they ſhould betray my being here. Tyrant quoth Ornatus, thinkeſt thou their deaths ſhall go vnreuenged, couldeſt thou be ſo cruell as to murther thoſe that were innocent, with whom I feare me thou haſt made away Arteſia. Why what art thou quoth Thæō, that vſeſt ſuch vndecent words to a king, that art thy ſelfe not worthie to ſpeake to a king? and why makeſt thou ſuch enquirie after Arteſia, that for ought I know haſt no intereſt in her? ſuppoſe I haue ſlaine her that was the cauſe of all this woe, what canſt thou challenge at my handes for her? it had bene good ſhe had neuer bene borne, for ſhe onely hath cauſed the originall of theſe troubles. Art thou a king quoth Ornatus, and beareſt ſo vnkingly a minde as to ſlaunder true vertue? No, thou art a villain, a murtherer, a Traytor to this land, an vſurper of the Crowne, and a moſt wicked and cruell homicide: but for that thou wouldeſt knowe what I am, knowe that I haue more intereſt to the Crowne then thou haſt, my name Ornatus, and thy enemy, to whome by right that Crowne belongeth, which thou ſhalt no longer enioy. Therefore ſaid he, ſuch as are my friends lay hold on this Traytor. He had no ſooner ſpake theſe words, but Theons owne ſeruants were the firſt that apprehended him, being weary of his gouernment; and one amongſt the reſt, thinking that he had commaunded them to ſlay him, and withall, hoping for reward for that forward exployt, hauing his ſwoord readie drawne, ſuddenly (whilſt Ornatus did but turne backe to confer with Phylaſtes) thruſt the ſame through Theons bodie, that giuing a pitteous grone, he gaue vp the ghoaſt. Ornatus turning

backe

backe, demaunded who had done that déede, with that the murtherer drew backe, fearing to come before him, vntil he was compeld. To whom Ornatus ſaid; What art thou that haſt done this déed, art thou not one of his ſeruants, haſt not thou bene maintained by him, did he not truſt thée with his life, was he not thy king, then howe durſt thou preſume to ſtrike thy maiſter, be ingratefull to him that gaue thée gifts, proue falſe to him that truſted thée, and ſlay thine annointed king? My Lord (quoth he) I did miſtake your wordes, and hope to preſerue my owne life, made me to do that déede, which I thought would haue pleaſed you. I am not (quoth he) ſorie he is dead, but for that thou ſleweſt him, whom thou in all dutie oughteſt to haue defended: for which thou ſhalt die a miſerable death. Then he commaunded that he ſhould be drawne in péeces with horſes, which before he departed thence, was performed.

CHAP. XVII.

How *Ornatus* was choſen King. How he departed vnknowne in ſearch of *Arteſia*. How Lenon ſought againe to betray him, was diſappointed. How he was baniſhed. *Tyreſus* pardoned. And *Ornatus* and *Arteſia* royally married.

THe King dead, Ornatus with Phylaſtes, returned to the Court, where all the Péeres were aſſembled, who before his comming, had by a voluntarie meſſenger, vnderſtood the manner of Theons death, the care whereof was alreadie paſt, for that fewe or none at all loued him: but now their care was whom to chuſe as their King, but firſt they welcommed Ornatus, none of them all knowing him, nor once ſuſpecting what he was, who now could find no further occaſiõ to cõceale himſelf, but humbling himſelf before Allinus, he ſaid. My renowmed Lord, the cauſe I haue ſo long concealed my ſelf, hath bin feare of the kings crueltie, and Lenons enuie, who both would haue indangered me, but now being voyd of that miſdoubt, your

poꝛe ſonne Ornatus, ſubmitteth himſelfe, humbly craving pardon foꝛ my neglect of dutie. With that hee vnarmed his head, and his father knowing him, in moſt louing wiſe imbꝛaced him, ſheading teares foꝛ ioy of his ſafetie, whom he thought had bene long ſince dead. Duke Ternus and the reſt, reioyced to ſee him, and with imbꝛacings expreſſe their ioy, entring into admiration of his honoured parts and noble chiualrie. Phylaſtes being likewiſe known, was much commended, whom they deemed had bene murthered in the priſon by Lenon, foꝛ that he could not be found. Allinus beholding Ornatus, and with what valour he had behaued himſelfe, reioyced exceedingly, the Commons clapt their hands foꝛ ioy, and the Peeres amongſt themſelues began to relate howe vertuouſly, valiantly, and prudently, hee had behaued himſelf in all that he had vndertaken. After many welcomes paſt, Ternus craning audience ſtood vp, vttering theſe ſpeeches: My Lordes, we need not now defer giuing of Allinus his right, becauſe there is none to contradict what we eſtabliſh: beſides, we being all now aſſembled togither, & our late vſurping king dead, there can be no fitter time to chuſe a new king, and ſuch a one as by right of blood, and by our generall conſents may rule vs. Theon you know was no way intereſted in the Crowne but by vſurpation, and hath rooted out almoſt all that he knew to haue any title oꝛ intereſt in our late kings blood: of which houſe Allinus iſſue is the laſt, by marriage of the Ladie Aurea neece vnto our late king, therefoꝛe the right being in him, if there be any man in this aſſembly that can cõtradict that which I haue ſaid, let him ſpeak. Which when he had ſaid, he againe ſat downe. Vpon his ſpeeches the Nobles conferd, the people conſulted, and at laſt the common ſouldiers cryed out, Let Ornatus be our king, Ornatus is our king. The nobles likewiſe gaue conſent to that the multitude liked, and Ornatus was choſen king, whom they would haue crowned: but at his deſire they deferd the day of his Coꝛonation foꝛ a month. In the meane time, eſteeming him as their king, and that day with great royaltie ſetting him in poſſeſſion thereof. All buſineſſe foꝛ that day being ended, the Armenians richly rewarded,

laſted,

feaſted, and with ioy readie to returne, All things in quiet but for the want of his Ladie, and all things in good order, Ornatus being alone by himſelfe endured much diſquiet for Arteſia, marueiling what was become of her, ſometimes thinking ſhe was ſlaine by Thæon, and then ſuppoſing ſhe was eſcaped out at the poſterne gate which he found open, that in theſe contrarieties of doubts he continued, ſometimes diſpairing, and then again feeding himſelfe with hope. After Arteſia had reſted her ſelfe, and receiued ſome part of her ſleepe ſhe had left that night, though but with broken ſlumbers, ſhe begã to declare to Adellena what miſeries ſhe had indured, and troubles ſhe had paſt ſince ſhe was by Lenon carried from her houſe, how ſhe met with Ornatus againe, and euerie thing that was befalne, with the cauſe of her flight at that inſtant. But Adellena ſaid ſhe, I feare me I ſhall neuer ſee him againe, for had he not bin takẽ, and his father ouerthrown, Thæon could not haue had ſo much leiſure as to come to ſurpriſe me there, but the heauens granted me a fortunate eſcape. And if I could be ſo happie as to heare that Ornatus were in ſafetie, though he had not that ſucceſſe his deſires did aime at, my heart would be at ſome reſt, which is now pinched with ſuſpitious torment. His aduenterous valiant hart could not be withdrawne by any perſwaſion to leaue to aide his father, but notwithſtanding infinit perils hung ouer his head, yet to ſhew the dutie of a louing ſon, and the mind of a vertuous valiant gentleman, he would not deſiſt to hazard his perſon: which now I feare me is falne into the hands of his enemies. But yet Phylaſtes I hope wil by his good & friendly counſel be a meanes to keepe him from danger. Many other ſpeeches Arteſia vſed: and Adellena vſed as many on the contrary part, to perſwade her that Ornatus was in ſafetie, the truth whereof ſhe told her, ſhe ſhuld ſone know: for quoth ſhe I haue ſent one of my ſeruants to learne the truth of all that is happened, who I know wil ſhortly returne. Which fel out euen as ſhe had told, for the ſeruant returned, bringing newes of Lenon death, acted by a ſtrange knight, and how that Thæon was fled, and being likewiſe by the ſtraunge knight ſurpriſed in Arbaſtus Caſtle, was ſlaine by one of his owne ſeruants. (Which)

Which Knight, was now knowne to be Ornatus, and was elected King by the Peeres, but he had deferred his day of Coronation, by reaſon of ſome ſpeciall griefe that troubled him. Arteſias heart was reuiued with theſe newes, knowing the griefe Ornatus endured was for her abſence, that preſently ſhe determined to ſend him word of her ſafetie: and wrote a Letter, the contents whereof were theſe.

MY deare *Ornatus*, no newes could haue come more welcome to me then your ſafetie, and nothing more vnwelcome, then to heare of your heauineſſe, which I would intreate you to ceaſe, for that I am in ſafetie at *Adellenas* houſe, being by one of my ſeruants the ſame night the King tooke my Caſtle, at a poſterne gate in ſafetie brought hither, where I truſt ere long to ſee you: which will repleniſh my ſoule with exceeding comfort, for on your ſafetie, my life and felicitie dependeth.

Yours for euer, *Arteſia.*

Hauing wrote this Letter, ſhe gaue it to Thriſtus, willing him to deliuer the ſame to Ornatus with all ſpeed.

Deſtenies do allot many to exceeding miſfortunes, and ſome men are of that diſhonorable and vnmanly diſpoſitions, that they account all meanes to attaine their deſires lawful, not regarding the ſhame and peril wil enſue thereon. Of which nature was Lenon, who being conueyed from the Campe by his friends, ſoone recouered, and kept in a ſecret place, leaſt he might be knowne, hauing no other meanes but by abſenting himſelf to ſaue his life: whoſe ſuppoſed death, cauſed Thæons flight to the greene Fortreſſe, from whence likewiſe he was departed before Leno could come to giue him knowledge of his ſafetie, and knowing that it was then too late to ſalue theſe miſeries, he ſtill concealed himſelf, following Ornatus (though vnknowne to him) with intent to murther him, if he could by any meanes take him at aduantage. But he was ſtill diſappointed, and withall ſawe the death of his father

father done by his owne seruant, still intermingling himselfe amongst the souldiers, that hee was taken to be one of them, and neuer suspected. But Ornatus beeing returned to the Court, Lenon was then compelled to leaue to follow him, and harboured sometimes in one place, and sometimes in an other, hauing knowledge of Artesias absence, hee could not tell whether shee were aliue or dead: but dead he thought she could not be, but rather by some meanes escaped. And euen when Thrustus was newly come out of Adellenas house, Lenon espied him, and knowing him to be one of Artesias seruants, he suspected his Mistresse was there, to whō he came, saying: My friend well met, I take you to bee one of Artesias seruants, vnlesse I bee deceiued: which if you will resolue me of, I will do a message to you, that I am willed to deliuer to her from her dearest friend Ornatus. Indeede (quoth Thrustus) I serue Artesia, and am now going to Ornatus with a letter from Artesia, who is in safetie in Adellenas house. Lenon hearing his speech, beeing before determined what to do, drew out his dagger and suddainly stabbed him, casting his body into a pitte, and taking the letter from him, brake vp the seale and red the contents, which when hee had done, hee beganne to studie which way to reuenge himselfe on Ornatus, and afterwardes to get Artesia into his possession, and for that hee thought delay might hinder his intent, he first wrote a letter in Artesias name, the contents were these.

ORnatus my dearest friend, the newes of your happy victorie, and conquest of your enemies, is come to my knowledge, then which nothing could haue been more welcome vnto me. Likewise I heare, that much heauinesse possesseth you for my absence, that am in safetie: and desire you to meete mee to morrow night, and you shall finde mee with *Adellena* at the lodge in the Parke neare vnto my Castle: in the meane time, remitting all further report of my escape, and manifestation of my loue, vntill the happie time I may meete you.

Yours in all loue, *Artesia.*

When he had written this letter, and immitated therein Artesias owne hand so neare, that it could hardly be discerned, hee went to the Court, and behaued the matter so cunningly, that hee was no way suspected, but was admitted into Phylastes presence, to whom he deliuered the letter. For Ornatus himselfe being exceedingly troubled in his mind, had left the Court, with some three in his company, to go in search of Ar-

tessa, and left Phylastes in his chamber, and in his stead, to answere such as should come with any suites to him. Phylastes being taken of all, but of some certaine that attended him, receiued the letter, promising to meet Artesia there at the same time appointed, giuing the messenger a reward. Lenon hauing departed, went to a place where hee found a certaine kinsman of his named Lucertus, to whom he declared both what hee was, and what meanes he had wrought for his reuenge on Ornatus, who without respect ioyned hands with him, and promised with many oathes to explore his life in pursuite of reuenge, who with Lenon included before Ornatus comming, to be in the lodge with a sufficient company to surprise him, and worke the premeditated reuenge. Lenon hauing assured of his ayde, next determined to take Artesia from Adellenas house, and to bring her to Lucertus Castle: vntill the time appointed staying with Lucertus, to see him depart with his ambush to the Lodge, which he saw effectually performed. Phylastes presently vpon the receipt of that letter, sent out a messenger to seeke Ornatus, and to certifie him, that Artesia would meete him at the lodge with Adellena that euening, and that hee should finde Phylastes there: who (hauing by Artesias messenger taken for himself) had appointed to be there, least he should not conueniently bee found. The messenger with great haste departed, and inquiring after foure Pilgrims, (for in that habit Ornatus & such as were with him went) by that time the day drew neare to an end, the messenger found Ornatus, to whom hee declared what Phylastes had giuen him in charge, only mistaking the place, for whereas he should by his direction, haue said at the lodge, mistaking Phylastes words, he said at Adellenas house. Ornatus hearing that heauenly tidings, lept for ioy, presently hasting towards Adellenas house, which was not farre off. Lenon to further his attempt (which hee thought he could not with violence execute: for hee thought if hee should carrie her away perforce in the day time, he should be preuented) deuised an answere of the letter which he had taken from Thristus, which he determined to deliuer to Artesia, as from Ornatus, the contents whereof were these.

MY most deare and beloued *Artesia*, I haue receiued the letter you sent me by your seruant, who I haue imployed about a matter of great importãce, that none could so fitly execute as himself, which news was most welcome to ỹ comfort of my hart, that was almost ouercome with dispaire of your safetie, whereon my chiefest felicitie dependeth.

Therefore

Therefore omitting further recitall of my ioy for your safetie, which this paper cannon expresse, therefore I will meete you soone, where this my seruant will bring you, whose fidelitie I assure you to be such, as that hee will do nothing but what I haue giuen him in charge: vntill which time of meeting, I cease all further circumstances of speeches.

Yours *Ornatus.*

With this letter Lenon went to Adellenas house, and knocking at the gate, was brought to her, to whom hee deliuered the same, who reading the contents, and being before not well acquainted with Ornatus hand, nothing at all suspected the contrary, but both beleeued that it came from him, and determined to go with the messenger to meet him: whilest shee was preparing to go with Lenon, Adellenas maide came in, telling her, that there was another to speake with her from Ornatus: with that Lenon changed countenance, and Artesia willed her to bring him in. Ornatus beholding her, had thought to haue imbraced her, and discouered himselfe, but seeing a straunger there, and a letter in her hand, hee stood in a studie. Artesia noting well his countenance, thought it was Ornatus himselfe, but standing in a doubt thereof, said: I haue receiued this letter from Ornatus alreadie, and therefore if you haue any further message from him, tell it me, for any newes from him shall be most welcome. Ornatus thought that it was sent by Phylastes, but not knowing the messenger, maruelled thereat, saying: I cannot beleeue that it came from him, for while within this houre he had not knowledge of your beeing heere. With that Artesia gaue him the letter, willing him to reade the same. Ornatus sone knew that it was inuented by some trecherie, and therefore said: I know this comes not from Ornatus, for this is not his hand, nor hee that brought it any of his seruants, for himselfe sent me before, appointing to be heere within this houre.

Lenon hearing his speeches, wisht himselfe a thousand myles off, fearing to be discouered, for that he could not tell how to excuse himselfe, nor by any colour auoyde that daunger. To whom Ornatus said: My friend, when did he deliuer thee this letter? Yesterday (quoth he.) Thou lyest said Ornatus, for he hath not been at the Court these three daies. Lenon thinking with impudencie to outface, hauing no other meanes left, that was likely to helpe him, and therefore said: This letter came from Ornatus, and thou lyest in saying the contrary, being some villaine that art

ſet to betray this Ladie, therefore (quoth he) ſpeaking to Arteſia, beleeue him not, for he is come with ſome euill intent. With that Ornatus bad thoſe that were with him laye hands on him, who preſently apprehended him, and pulling off his hat, and a ſubtile diſguiſe that he wore, knew him to be Lenon, at the firſt being halfe afraide to touch him, for that they would haue ſworne he had bin dead. Ornatus ſeeing Arteſia in an exceeding fright, diſcouered himſelfe, and with great ioy imbraced her, deſiring her to feare nothing. Arteſia knowing him, ſome forgat her feare, embracing him with exceeding ioy. To whom hee ſaid: Feare him not my deare Arteſia, for be it himſelfe or his ghoſt, I care not, it ſhall go hard, if he now eſcape my hands. To whom he ſaid: Moſt diſcourteous and cowardly villaine, couldſt thou not be contented to liue in quiet, hauing once eſcaped my furie, but that thou muſt by further complots and trecheries ſeeke to betray this Ladie that neuer did iniurie thee? How often haſt thou interrupted her quiet, and from quietneſſe brought her into miſery: and knowing that ſhe could not like thee, yet thou wert ſo impudent, as neuer to giue ouer thy ſute: but to attaine thy deſire, firſt depriueth her of libertie, baniſhedſt me in the diſguiſe of Syluian, and longhteſt to betray my fathers life: and not ſatiſfied with all theſe, like a cowardly miſcreant, ſeekeſt by villanie to betray her: and notwithſtanding thou haſte beheld thy fathers woefull downfall and meritorious puniſhment, thou ſeekeſt to betray this Ladies life, by ſome vnknowne trecherie not yet reuealed. For all which, thou ſhalt ſuffer ſuch puniſhment as I haue deuiſed, and haue power to execute. Lenon ſeeing himſelfe diſcouered, grew deſperate, and ſcorning to be ſo rebuked at his hands, whom he ſtill eſteemed his inferior, but eſpecially vexed, that it was he that had ſo long hindered his loue to Arteſia, ſaid: Ornatus, I thinke thou haſte either forgotten thy ſelfe, or elſe what I am, that at thy pleaſure rebukeſt me in ſuch vnciuill and vnbeſeeming termes. Am I not thy better, and one that not long ſince, might haue commaunded thee, and is thy minde ſo much eleuated and proud, that thou wilt not acknowledge it? Thou makeſt brags of thy victorie, when thou mayſt rather with ſhame keepe ſilence, and with remorſe, repent that thou haſte ſought the death of thy lawfull king, being thy ſelfe but a traitor. As he would haue ſpake more, Ornatus interrupted him, ſaying: Hold thy peace, and do not ſtirre my minde to more ſharpe reuenge by thy reply, for I ſcorne to heare thee ſpeake, therefore giue ouer, leaſt I puniſh that tongue of thine for vttering ſuch high words in defence of vice.

Since

Since (quoth Lenon) thou wilt not heare me ſpeake in defence of my ſelfe, let me bee conueyed from thy preſence, for thy ſight is as odious vnto me, as mine to thee. Whilest they continued in Adellenas house, a meſſenger came running in breathleſſe, vttering theſe ſpeeches: Behold moſt worthie Ornatus, I bring a meſſage of much woe and heauie import: yeſterday there was a meſſenger came to the court, that brought a letter in Arteſias name to Phylaſtes, as ſuppoſing him to bee your ſelfe, wherein ſhee requeſted you to meete her this night at the lodge in her Parke. Phylaſtes, who preſently ſent out a meſſenger to giue you knowledge thereof, but not hearing of his returne, went himſelfe with ſome twentie in his company, to the place appointed, and entring, hee found not Arteſia there, but a crewe of rebels, amongſt whom Lucertus was chiefe, who all at once ſet vpon him and his followers, taking him for your ſelfe, hauing ſo many aboue the ſmall number that were with Phylaſtes, that they had ſoone ſlaine moſt of them that were with him, and himſelfe not able to withſtand ſuch a multitude, had receiued many grieuous woumds, & had been ſurely ſlaine, but that the heauens ſent them this ayde: It fortuned that day, that Duke Lernus was going from the Court to his owne houſe, who by great fortune hearing the noyſe, with his men haſted thitherwards, and hauing knowledge of what was done, moſt valiantly both himſelfe and his men ſet vpon Lucertus, whom they ſoone vanquiſhed, having firſt ſlaine many of his complices, and him hath he carried priſoner with the reſt of ſuch as were aliue vnto the Court, and with them Phylaſtes in great daunger of death. Ornatus heart was exceedingly vexed to heare of his deare friend Phylaſtes hurt, but eſpecially, to thinke that he had not before attached Lucertus, which he was once in minde to haue done, which would haue preuented all theſe miſchifes. The night now being come, Ornatus cauſed Lenon to be bound hand & foote, and put into a ſtrong place of the houſe, with ſome to watch him, leaſt he ſhould do himſelfe violence: himſelfe with Arteſia ſpending that euening in many ſpeeches, relating the manner of all theſe miſfortunes, but eſpecially comforting themſelues in each others loue, with Adellena, calling to remembrance the whole maner of their troubles onely procured by Lenon, which ſadde relations made the renuing of their loue more pleaſant and delectable. Early the next morning, Ornatus putting himſelfe in his Palmers weedes, and couering Arteſias face with a vale, and carrying Lenon with them bound, departed towards the Court. The next morning the Peeres of the Land being

still there, assembled themselues, amongst whom was Allinus, that likewise had found his Ladie, who hearing of his happie successe against Theon, was that morning newly arriued at the Court, and by him entertained with exceeding ioy.

By that time they were assembled, and had called Lucertus before them, Ornatus with his companie, were likewise come, though vnknown and standing by, heard Lucertus confesse that Lenon had instigated him to worke that reuenge against Ornatus, himselfe being likewise gone to betray Artesia. The whole assembly maruelled when they heard him say that Lenon perswaded him to it, that Allinus stood vp, saying: Is not hée dead, then how can this bée? Lenon (quoth Lucertus is not dead: with that Ornatus stepping in, thrusting Lenon before him, said: Here is the man that hath procured him to all this mischiefe. The Nobles beholding him, were amazed at his sight, but béeing assured it was he, by the perfect knowledge they had of him, Ternus said: Lenon, I had alwaies thought thou hadst borne the mind of a Gentleman, but now I finde the contrary in thée, and that in the most shamefulst degrée. What furie ledde thée to such mischeuous attemps, to hire Lucertus to slay Ornatus, which he hath almost performed? and thy selfe to seeke the death or miserie of that vertuous Ladie, that hath alreadie indured too much wrong by thy folly? Allinus had not as yet heard of Ornatus hurt, nor any knew the contrarie but that Phylastes was he, for he according to the minde of a most vertuous and constant friend, stil concealed himselfe. Nor the Lady Aura had yet seene her sonne, whom she had but heard of, that Allinus sayd: Is my son Ornatus almost slaine? O trayterous villaine: with that Aura likewise began to make exceeding lamentation: which Ornatus was not able to behold, and therefore pulling off his disguised habit, humbly reuerenced himselfe before them vpon his knée, both his Parents knewe him, & with exceeding ioy imbraced him, shedding aboundance of teares for his safetie. With that, Duke Ternus and all the rest came to him, vsing him with such behauiour as belonged to him, they had chosen king, seating him in an imperiall chaire. He being set thus, said: My noble Lords, I thanke you for intitling me with this exceeding honour: therefore my desire is, since you haue elected me of your frée and bounteous hearts to be your king, let me this day and instantly be installed with possession of the Diademe, for that I haue now no further cause of care to cause me defer the same: and likewise that I may giue iudgement against these most wicked conspirators. The Nobles with ioyfull harts gaue consent,